

HIS HIGHNESS SIR BALA RAMA VARMA
MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

MODERN TRAVANCORE:

A HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

BY

A. PADMANABHA IYER,

Journalist, Trivandrum.

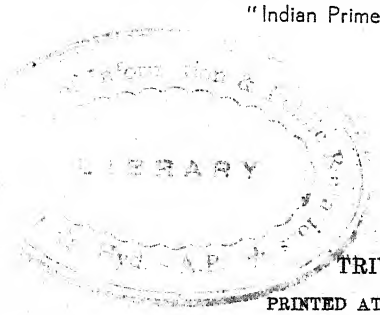
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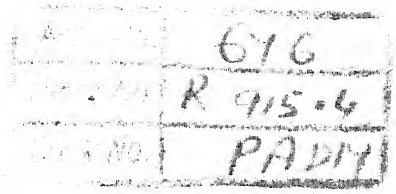
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DEDICATED

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TO

HER HIGHNESS

MAHARANI SETU PARVATI BAYI, D. LITT., OF TRAVANCORE

WHOSE

WATCHFUL SOLICITUDE AND UNPARALLELED
DEVOTION HAVE WON FOR HER HIGHNESS
THE ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE OF
THE PEOPLE;

WHOSE

UNCEASING INTEREST IN THE CAUSE OF THE
WOMEN OF INDIA HAS EVOKED THE
RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF THE
FAIR SEX;

WHOSE

SENSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
HAS BROUGHT ETERNAL GLORY
TO HER HIGHNESS AND
HIS HIGHNESS;

WHOSE

PROGRESSIVE IDEAS AND IDEALS HAVE
SERVED TO STIMULATE AND INSPIRE
HIS HIGHNESS;

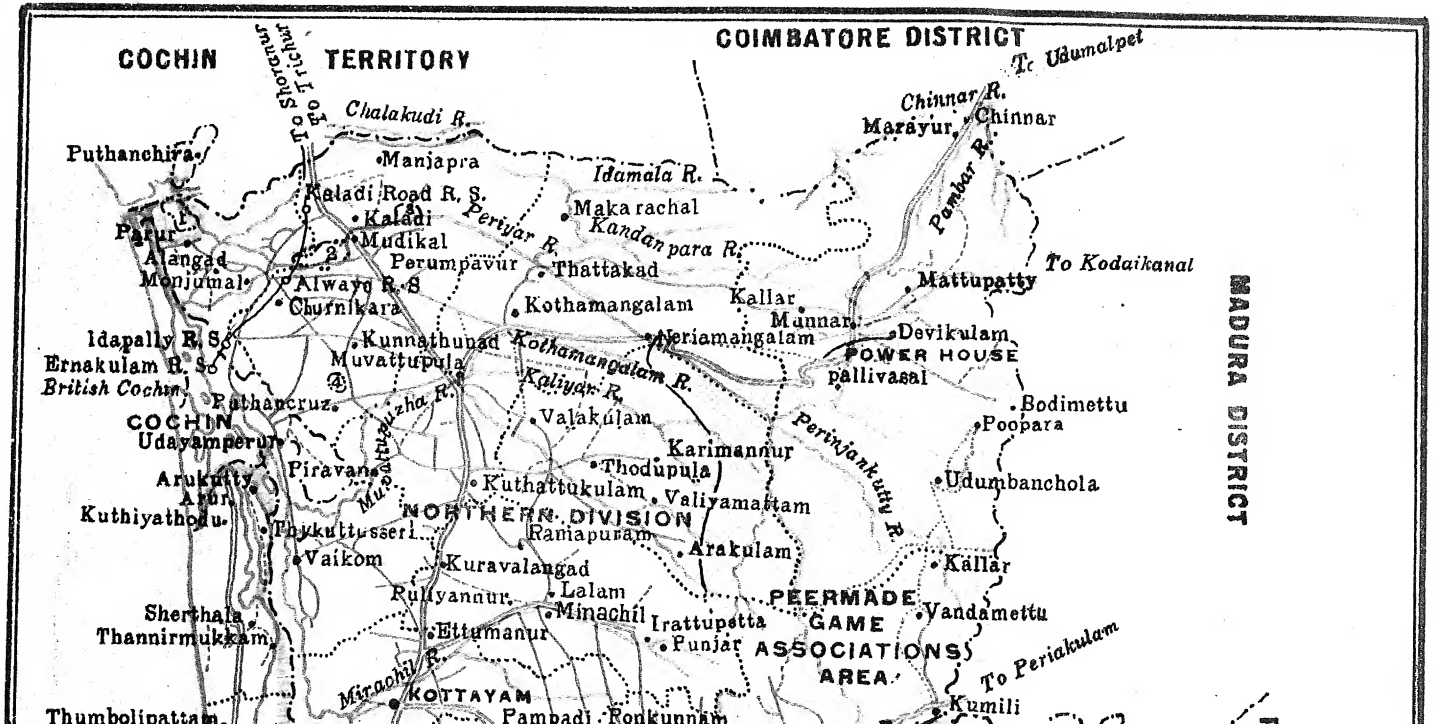
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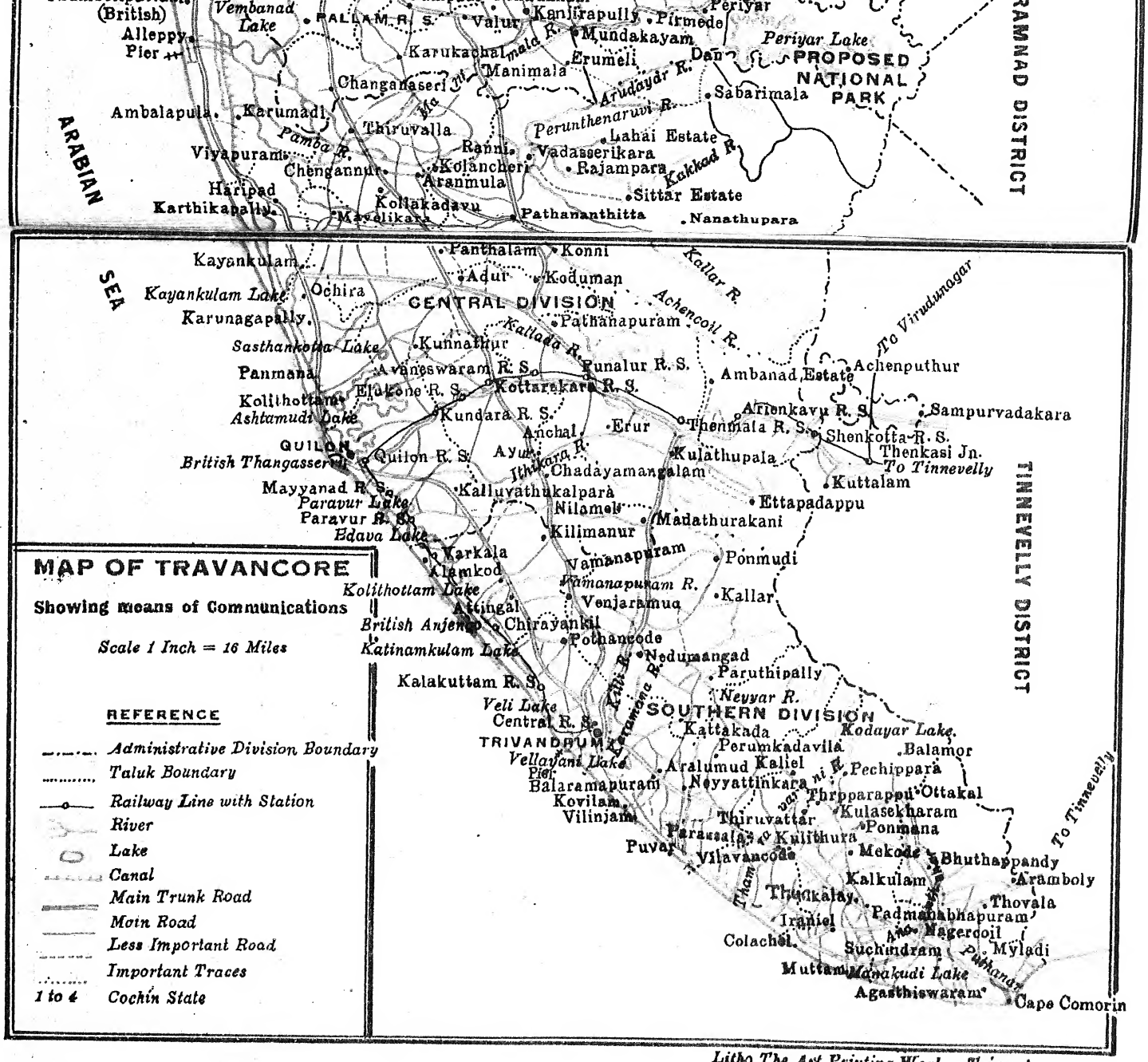
MOTHERLY CONCERN AND AFFECTION
HAVE BEEN NO SMALL ASSET TO
HIS HIGHNESS

In the Difficult and Responsible Task of Rulership

BY

THE AUTHOR


COCHIN TERRITORY
COIMBATORE DISTRICT
To Shoranur
To Trichur
To Udumalpet
Chalakudi R.
Chinnar R.
Marayur
Chinnar
Puthanchira
Manjapra
Idamala R.
Kaladi Road R. S.
Kaladi
Periyar R.
Makarachal
Kandanpara R.
Parur
Mudikal
Alangad
Perumpavur
Thattakad
Pambar R.
To Kodaikanal
Mattupatty
Monjumal
Alwaye R. S.
Kothamangalam
Kallar
Churnikara
Munnar
Devikulam
Idapally R. S.
Kunnathunad
Kothamangalam R.
Veriamangalam
POWER HOUSE
Ernakulam R. S.
Muvattupula
Kaliyar R.
pallivasal
British Cochin
Pathancruz
Bodimettu
COCHIN
Valakulam
Periyankutty R.
Poopara
Udayamperur
Karimannur
Thodupula
Piravam
Muvattupuzha R.
Udumbanchola
Arukutty
Kuthattukulam
Valiyamattam
Aluv
NORTHERN DIVISION
Kuthiyathodu
Thykuttusseri
Ramapuram
Arakulam
Vaikom
Kuravalangad
Kallar
Lalam
Pulliyannur
PEERMADE
Minachil
Vandamettu
Sherthala
Irattupetta
GAME
Thannirmukkam
Ettumanur
Punjar
ASSOCIATIONS
AREA
To Periakulam
Minachil R.
KOTTAYAM
Kumili
Thumbolipattam
Pampadi
Ponkunnam
MADURA DISTRICT



Litho The Art Printing Works, Trivandrum.

PREFACE.

The circumstances under which this book is published require a word of explanation. When in 1936 I wrote "Modern Mysore" I was asked by several friends why I did not produce a similar book about Travancore. My reply was that I was trying to get the necessary materials. When, however, I brought out the second edition of "Modern Mysore" in 1938, I made up my mind to write a brochure on Travancore and placed my idea before Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., the Dewan, who not only kindly promised me all necessary facilities in the way of information, but encouraged me to proceed with the task. I was furnished with notes on the measure of progress made by the major Departments during the past decade. I began my task in November, 1940. Since then the Heads of Departments have been furnishing me with details of progress made during the last ten years. I am thankful to Government for the help thus rendered. I feel extremely grateful for the helpful suggestions thrown here and there by the Sachivothama, which perfectly agreed with my plan of work. When such an agreement had been reached, my task was easy enough. The small brochure became a volume of more than 400 pages. Yet, I must admit that I have not done full justice to the subject. As I proceeded with each Chapter and with each Section of my review of the reign of His Highness, I realised that the work deserved more elaborate treatment, especially on the administrative side, as the decade is crowded with several leading events of great importance and lasting benefit to the State and the subject population. Some of them have definitely raised the status of the State as a unit of progressive administration in the governance of Indian India and Travancore has been given its rightful place in the front-rank of Indian States.

It is this story of progressive and enlightened administration that I have tried to narrate. The first Part deals with important objects of interest and institutions which have received the special attention and care of His Highness the Maharaja as Patron of Arts and Letters and as a connoisseur of things—both cultural and artistic. The Second Part is a brief review of His Highness' reign.

I must express my grateful obligations to the two Printing Presses namely, the A. R. V. Press and the Sridhara Printing House for their neatness in execution. I am under deep obligation to Government for not only placing at my disposal the blocks used in my book, but also printing them free of cost in the Government Press.

I have only to state, in conclusion, that I shall consider myself amply awarded if this book has helped to the slightest extent in the way of securing for our country wider publicity in the outside world who may be interested in Travancore and its affairs.

Karamanai,
April, 1941.

A. Padmanabha Iyer.

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PART I.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

A—Physical Features, Area and Population

"Travancore is one of the greatest Indian States, not only comparable in population to many European States, but it is one of the most beautiful and richly endowed territories in the world—a country rich in scenery, in natural resources and in water-ways and communications, a country in which, in fact, both land and sea are smiling so agreeably".—SIR SAMUEL HOARE, EX-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

The name, Travancore, is interpreted in Malayalam as *Tiruvitamkur*, in Sanskrit as *Srivardhanapuri* or *Srivazhumkode*, meaning the seat of prosperity. It is situated between 8° 4′ and 10° 21′ North latitude and between 76° 13′ and 77° 38′ East longitude. It is in the southern-most corner of this continent with Cape Comorin forming its "Land's End". It is washed on its southern and western sides by the Arabian sea and is bounded on the north by the British Indian District of Coimbatore and the Cochin State and on the east by the British Indian Districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly. The State is in subsidiary alliance with the British Government. It has a coast line of 180 miles in length and is the largest maritime State in India. As a modern matriarchate it is the only country in the civilised world where the system of inheritance in the female line still prevails in the Ruling Family, excepting the neighbouring State of Cochin. It is unique when compared with the rest of India in its physical features and climatic conditions. Though it is called "The

Kashmir of the South", it has a distinct natural scenery of its own which differs considerably from that in Kashmir. The "Book of Nature" which spreads itself out to the tourist in any part of this, "Land of Charity" is velvet green extending beyond the reach of the eye, presenting a sight not found in many places in the world. Whether considered from the point of sight-seeing, or the interesting manners and customs of the people, or from its institutions of caste and religion, or of its commercial and industrial potentialities, it is worth a visit by one intent on holidaying or on business. It was on account of this considerable and enchanting diversity in physical features and climatic conditions that His Highness Visakam Tirunal Maharaja of Travancore (1880-1885), a profound scholar, a great traveller, a reputed statesman, an enthusiastic scientist and a well-known patron of arts and letters, aptly described Travancore as an 'epitome' of the world. Its serried mountains and cloud-capped hills presenting a vast vista of eternal verdure, its fertile and meandering meadows of paddy in the hollows, its glittering backwaters and canals fringed by luxuriant vegetation refreshing to the eye, its feathery palm rising tier by tier in the slopes—these are beauties of Nature which no State or Province in India presents in such a charmingly variegated form, while its immense wealth of fauna and flora is another attraction both for the naturalist and the shikari out for game. From the mountain sides which range in height from 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet, the country undulates towards the west over hills of dense vegetation till it reaches the cultivated plains which skirt its rivers and lakes. The annual rainfall ranges from 25 inches to as much as 200 inches, the average being 90 inches. It is these lavish gifts of Nature that induced that great traveller Viceroy, Lord Curzon, to observe in the course of his banquet speech delivered here. His Excellency said:

> Since I have been in India I have had a great desire to visit the State of Travancore. I have for many years heard so much of its exuberant

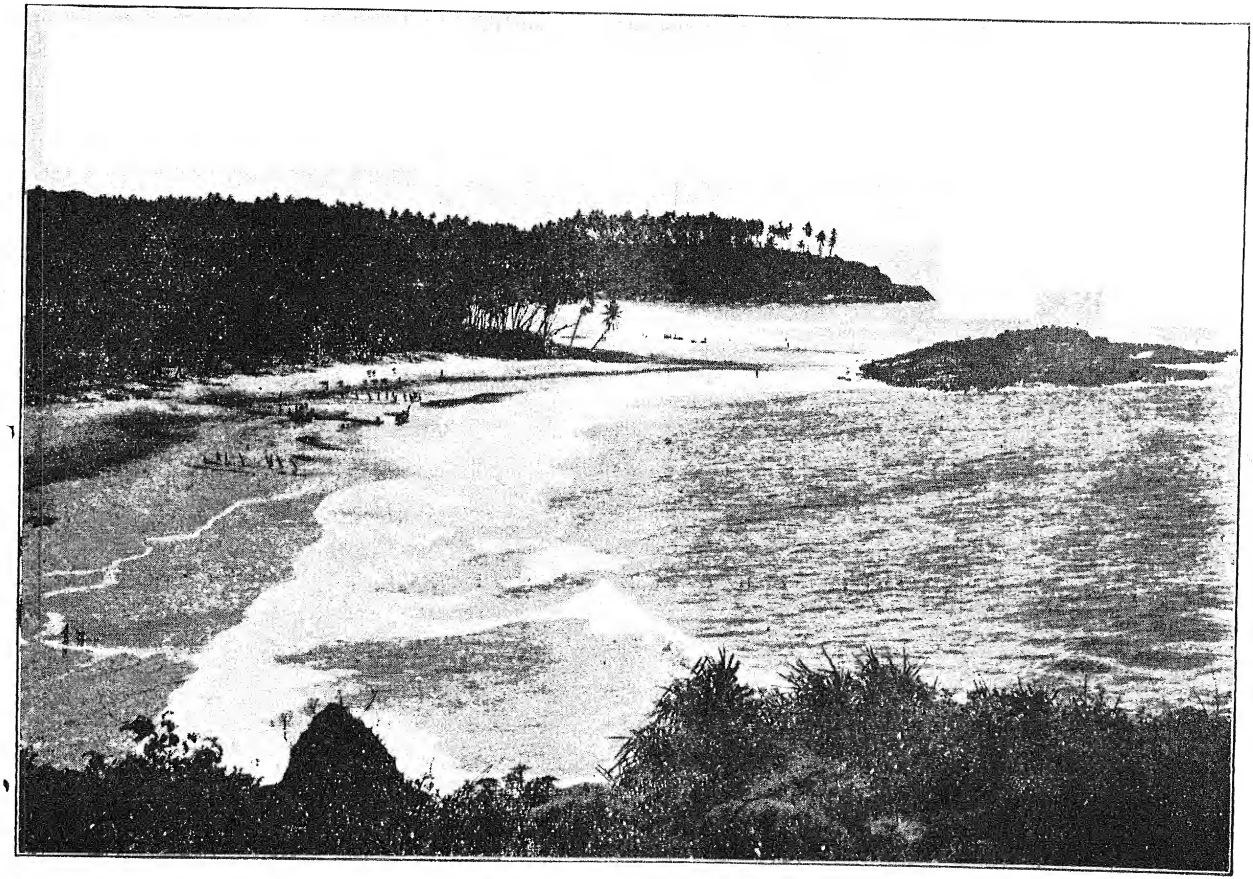
natural beauties, its old-world simplicity, and its Arcadian charm. Who would not be fascinated by such a spectacle? Here Nature has spent upon the land her richest bounties; the sun fails not by day, the rain falls in due season, drought is practically unknown, and an eternal summer gilds the scene. Where the land is capable of culture, there is no denser population: Where it is occupied by jungle, or backwater, or lagoon, there is no more fairy landscape. Planted amid these idyllic scenes is a community that has retained longer than any other equally civilised part of the Indian continent its archaic mould; that embraces a larger Christian population than any other Native State; and that is ruled by a line of indigenous princes who are one in origin and sentiment with the people whom they govern. Well may a Viceroy of India find pleasure in turning hither his wandering footsteps; good reason has he for complimenting such a ruler and such a State (*Applause*)".

A recent tourist described the State "as a tapestry of black-deep, velvetty, black and pale grey: a tapestry, sombre yet strangely attractive, which unwinds itself endlessly. That is Travancore when viewed from a backwater boat after sunset".

Area and Population

Travancore has an area of 7,625 square miles and is third in rank among the Indian States as regards population. The two States which have a larger population than Travancore are Hyderabad and Mysore. The former is about eleven times and the latter nearly four times as large as Travncore in area, but the population of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions is only about three times and that of Mysore one and one-third times as numerous as that of Travancore. If the comparison is taken beyond the limits of India, we see that Wales with an area of 7,466 square miles, i. e. only 158 square miles less than that of Travancore, has a population of only 21,58,193 according to the Census of 1931. In other words, it should find 3,89,793 persons more to make up half the population of Travancore. Ceylon, which has almost the same population as Travancore, is about three and a half times as large. Sweden whose population is more than that of

Travancore by only one-fifth is twenty-three times as large as the latter and Scotland whose size is about four times that of Travancore has a slightly smaller population. The comparison is no less favourable to Travancore if some of the States in the United States of America are taken into account. For, Travancore is slightly bigger than New Jersey (7,514) and Fiji Islands (7,435) and is smaller than Massachusetts (8,039) and Maryland (9,941). But in point of population, according to the the latest calculation, Travancore scores with 50,95,973 which is more than that of Massachusetts by about 8 lakhs. Maryland, in spite of its bigger size, has only 16,31,526. If the comparison under the head of density is also continued, we find that there also Travancore stands above every one of the countries above mentioned, with 668 persons per square mile as against 686 in Belgium, 537 in New Jersey, 528 in Massachusetts, 289 in Wales, 164 in Maryland and 22 in Fiji Islands. If it is calculated on the basis of land available for cultivation, it rises to 1,072 per square mile and on the land actually cultivated, it goes up to 1,482 per square mile. Among the Indian States, Cochin stands first in density and Travancore comes next. The next in order is Baroda, but it is not even half so populous as Travancore. Hyderabad and Mysore, which are the only States larger in size and population than Travancore, have only a density of 175 and 223 respectively, as against 668 in Travancore. When compared with British Indian Provinces, Travancore has a density higher than that of any of them. The only one that approaches Travancore is Bengal with 646. The neighbouring Madras Province is not even half as densely populated as Travancore, while Burma, which is akin to Travancore in that paddy is the most important crop in both the territories, has only less than one-tenth of this density. Among the foreign countries for which statistics are available, Java and Madura tops the list, then comes Belgium closely followed by England and Wales,



Kovalam

Travancore takes the fourth place. Denmark and Irish Free State, which are mainly agricultural countries of small landholders like Travancore, have only a density of 207 and 112 respectively. It will thus be seen that Travancore is one of the most thickly populated regions in the world.

It is equally interesting to state here that, out of a total population of 50,95,973, Hindus number 31,34,888, Christians 16,04,475, which is about half of Hindus and Muslims 3,53,274, which is a little more than one-tenth of Hindus. It is worthy of note that out of a total Christian population of 62,96,763 in the whole of India, 38,20,625 or about 60 per cent reside in South India and that a little less than one-fourth of the Christians in India is found in Travancore, which is an eloquent and arresting testimony to the generosity of the State of Travancore and its distinguished Rulers and their spirit of helpful toleration to other religions.

B—Endowments of Nature

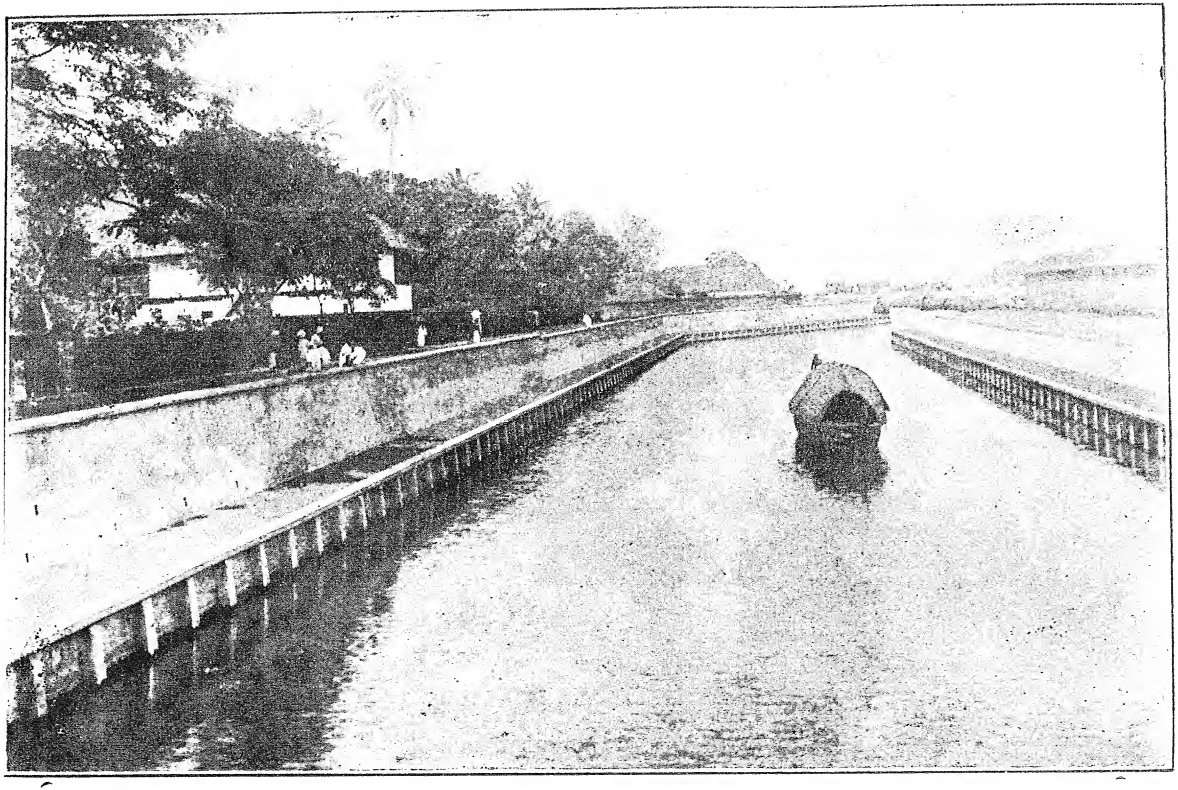
(1) Fauna—A Sportsman's Paradise.

In the forests are to be found the elephant, the Indian bison or gaur, the sambur and barking deer, the Indian chebrotan or mouse-deer, the Nilgiri wild goat (or ibex), the wild boar, the Indian sloth bear and wild dog, the panther or leopard of both the dotted and the black varieties and the tiger. In addition to these, numerous other species of fauna of a less important nature are also to be met with. There is, too, a great variety of birds. Masheer fishing may be obtained in some of the rivers while trout have been introduced by private agency in some of the mountain streams. In the heart of the hills lies the majestic Periyar Lake on the placid waters of which those inclined to boating may cruise n comfort amidst the most enchanting scenery and also may observe the various species of wild life in their natural habitat on the shores of the lake quenching their thirst or roaming about in absolute freedom on the surrounding hill-slopes.

This lake district provides exceptional opportunities for shikar. Generally, popular seats of game involve a certain amount of "roughing" just to see or shoot one variety of game and one has to go in certain directions over rough and unwelcome localities to secure different species. But here in this lake district one cruises over fairylike creeks, beautiful islands and lovely spots, and feasts one's eyes with the rare sight of different species of wild animals; in one corner it may be a herd of elephants disporting and bathing in the lake, with the giant mothers rolling about in the water and playing with their little babies: in another one may see another herd of bison leisurely and peacefully grazing over the rich and luxuriant growth of tall grass; yonder beyond, it may be a stately sambur stag on the side of a slanting hill, or a pack of otters playing about in the waters so near you but not affected by the proximity of the boat in which you are having your recreation. If you are lucky enough, you may let your eyes fall on a ferocious panther unconcernedly walking along the shores, rarely suspecting the approach of human beings. Just to prove to you that all this is not mere romance, it may be mentioned here that, when Lord Ratendone, the son of Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy of India, was cruising over this lake, he saw a big elephant crossing the lake and swimming joyously from one shore to the other, so close to the boat as to enable the distinguished tourist to take cinema photographs. On another occasion when Lord Pentland, the Ex-Governor of Madras, visited these magnificent places of the denizens of these sequestreed tracts, his boat was closely followed by a pack of wild dogs which, in swimming across the lake, found themselves very close to the bows of his boat. It is impossible to give the reader an adequate picture of this magnificent solitude or of its plenitude of wealth to a sportsman. The Government maintain a splendid Sanctuary of Wild Life in these parts, which any one may see with permission.



Ashtamudi Lake



The Alleppey Canal

(2) Flora—Forest Wealth

Travancore is rich in her resources—animal and vegetable, fauna and flora—which form an inexhaustible asset. Its forest resources are a treasure chest. About a third of the State is reserved forests which grow nearly 600 species of timber-trees and 3,500 species of flowering plants and shrubs. The latter yield a large variety of fibres, gums, resins and dyes which are of great economic, commercial and medicinal value. Several of these 600 species of timber trees are also of considerable commercial and industrial importance. Many of them are hard-wooded, durable and fine-grained and are fit for house-building, bridges, furniture, railway sleepers, ship-building and other industrial and domestic purposes. Besides timber, the forests yield such things as ivory, cardamoms, honey, wax, bamboos, reeds, oil seeds, rattans and scores of other minor products which could be commercially and industrially worked with profit. Teak, rightly called "The Monarch of the Wood", which is a highly priced and the most useful of all Indian timbers, abounds in several parts of Travancore from sea level up to 3,000 feet. There are two species of blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*) and (*Dysissoides*) occurring in the State. These yield valuable timber, being heavy and close-grained, and admitting of fine polish and therefore suited for furniture and ornamental works. Ebony (*Dyospyros Ebenomi*) is another very valuable timber whose heartwood is black, hard and heavy and is specially valuable for ornamental works, inlaying, furniture, mathematical instruments, etc. There are also many scented woods, chief among which ranks the sandalwood (*Santalum album*), growing in the dry regions of the State. A valuable oil is extracted from the wood and the wood itself is used for ornamental boxes, carving and other fine articles. Among coloured woods occurring in the State forests, may be mentioned the red-wood (*Gluta travancorica*) which yields a fine red-coloured timber,

much used for furniture-making and other purposes, (*Adina cordifolia*) yielding a close-grained yellow timber taking fine polish and used for cabinet making and Agil (*Dysoxylum malabaricum*) yielding a sallow-coloured timber with silvery sheen on being polished. Besides these, there occur a large variety of structural timber, used for local consumption, and also for export purposes. Side by side these varied species of valuable hardwood timbers, there exist hundreds of species of softwoods admirably suited for making tea-chests, packing cases, oil casks, paper pulp and the manufacture of matches, match boxes, toys and other articles of utility. Among minor forest produce, bamboos (*Bamabusa arundanacea*) and reeds (*Ochlandra travancorica*) come foremost. These yield valuable material for making fine quality paper.

(3) Mineral Resources.

Though Travancore cannot boast of valuable minerals like gold or silver, or even coal, it is the proud possessor of a river system from which hydro-electric power can be generated. One such source at Pallivasal in Munnar, the head-quarters of the European planting District in the High Ranges, has already been tapped with beneficent results. This "White Coal" or electricity, thus generated has already been made available to the public. A detailed account of this scheme will be found elsewhere in the course of the review of the administration. Other minerals like graphite, mica, etc., are also found in sufficient quantities and were mined and exported for many years by foreign companies Recently, a geological survey of some parts of the State was conducted, under orders of the Travancore Covernment, by Dr. J. L. Gillson, Development Department, E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Company, U. S. A. whose services were secured when he came here on an official visit to the Travancore Minerals Company, Ltd. His survey has disclosed that there is plenty

of graphite and mica yet to be mined on a commercial scale. Another important fact which has come to light is the discovery by him of one whole hillside which is composed of pure limestone so indispensable in the manufacture of cement. This has encouraged the Travancore Government to such an extent that the Dewan in the course of his statement at the joint sitting of the Assembly and the Council on the 23rd July, 1940, said that "it will be the object and ambition of this Government to develop cement manufacture on a large scale". More than all this, Travancore has had for several decades an actual treasure chest in a group of minerals called "Beach Minerals of Travancore". The Government have been obtaining annually about three to four lakhs of rupees as Royalty. From an economic point of view, this industry has been employing more than 5,000 labourers and spending in a year about Rs. 5 lakhs in the State. It has developed into an important industry.

BEACH MINERALS OF TRAVANCORE *

'Minerl wealth" is an important factor determining the economic status of a State. Though Travancore cannot as yet boast of any mines of gold, silver or other precious minerals, her rich resources treasured in the beach deposits provide the world market with many of the so called 'rare' minerals—an appellation which cannot, any more, be applied to many of these, as their existence has been reported from many countries distributed fairly all over the world.

Monazite is the key-word to the beach mineral industry of Travancore. With its discovery by C. W. Schomberg in 1909, Travancore started and developed the present vast industry. Some old residents of the neighbourhood of Muttom

* This Note was specially prepared for this book under instructions from the Travancore Minerals Company Ltd., by their Chemist Mr. P. Viswanath Iyer, B. A., the Author's son.

in South Travancore state that prior to 1909 the crimson coloured garnet sand used to be collected and exported, on a small scale, to Bombay. A story circulated in the Northern area round Neendakara says that coir products exported from this centre used to be weighted with this easily available heavy sand containing monazite and that it was the emptied coir-godowns in Germany that spoke the word as to where to look for this mineral. Whether these stories are true or not, commercial exploitation of the beach deposits commenced only after the discovery of monazite.

Survey work following Schomberg's discovery of monazite revealed five major deposits of mineral sands at Leeapuram, Pudur, Kovalam, Varkalai and Neendakara. These deposits containing monazite, ilmenite, garnet, zircon, sillimanite, rutile, etc., are said to be formed by the decomposition of certain extremely old pegmatites and granite rocks, which have been subjected to erosion for ages and ages. Weathering agents of nature like heat, cold, wind and percolating water have been busy through all these ages breaking, crushing and leaching these rocks; rains, streams and rivers have been washing down the unacted fragments of the minerals into the sea; and the ocean waves and sea currents in their turn have been sorting them out with almost scientific precision and redepositing these minerals on particular stretches of the beach. It is these deposits thatyield the various mineral sands.

The chief use to which monazite was put was the extraction of thoria for the impregnation of gas-mantles. The year 1909 in which monazite was discovered in Travancore was one of the peak years of production of this mineral in Brazil—which produced 6,359 tons, in the year 1909, valued at £1,44,742—but as the thoria content of Travancore monazite was nearly double that of the Brazil material, the Trvancore material stepped into the world market much to the detriment of Brazil monazite. The boom of Travancore monazite lasted only for

a few years—1911 to 1918. Travancore produced in 1918, 2,118 tons of monazite valued at Rs. 8,82,285. Possibly owing to the advent of electricity and the consequeut fall in the demand for the mantle gas lamps, the market for monazite fell as rapidly as it rose. Between 1923 and 1931 the annual output never exceeded 500 tons, the years 1925 and 1930 recording no export of this material. Since then, however, the demand has been going up as shown by the following figures:—

Year	Tons
1936	1,935
1937	3,757
1938	4,136
1939	5,435

The increasing fortunes of this industry are due to the revelations of research work of the highest order. The technical side of the industry is controlled by organisations engaged in ceaseless, laborious, patient, and, above all, expensive research work. Naturally, therefore, the results of their work are zealously guarded, so that they may reap the benefits of their own work.

Though thoria has not of late been in such great demand as before, the other constituents of monazite, chiefly ceria, are promising extended application. The metal cerium itself not been found to be of much use, as it is, but a small percentage of it alloyed with Aluminium is said to improve its ductility and makes the alloy more suitable for foundry work. Cerium alloyed with iron gives a series of 'ferro-ceriums' known as 'pyrophoric alloys,' used commonly in cigarette lighters. This alloy is also used to define the flight of shells known as 'tracer shells'. A small bit of the alloy is fixed to the tip of the shell which, when fired on account of friction with air, ignites spontaneously and therefore marks its own path at night.

The importance of this device in these days of aerial warfare can hardly be exaggerated. Cerium sulphate is used in electric accumulators, in photography and as a catalyst in the contact process of manufacturing sulphuric acid. It also finds use in electric arc lamps, leather industry and, to a small extent, in medicine, in making luminous paints. The other elements in the monazite are still engaging the attention of scientists and it is difficult to presage when a demand may arise as a result of some new discovery.

Ilmenite. One of the first by-products obtained in the course of the concentration of monazite is ilmenite, a double oxide of Iron and Titanium. This black sand so familiar to the residents of some of the stretches of sea beach has far outgrown its mother. From small beginnings of a few hundreds of tons a year between 1922 and 1925 the output of ilmenite has made enormous leaps so that the stupendous figure of over 2,00,000 tons was reached during 1938. Quite unlike the unsteady market of monazite the growth of ilmenite industry has been remarkably rapid and steady. It has been computed that up to 1937 the beaches of Manavalakurichi and Neendakara have supplied over 7,00,000 tons of ilmenite. Ilmenite and other Titanium bearing minerals like Nelsonite have been discovered in many other parts of the world, like Natal, Egypt, French Cameroons, Belgian Congo, Ceylon, Australia and several districts in the U. S. A,, but until such time economic exploitation in any of these places commences to any degree of importance, the demand for Travancore ilmenite may be expected to remain high. The main use of ilmenite is for the extraction of Titania or 'Titanium White' as it is popularly known. This white pigment has, to a considerable extent, been replacing the older white-lead. The advantage of 'Titanium white' over white lead lies in its non-toxic character, greater covering power and its brighter white tint not affected by atmospheric

sulphidation. Because of its great obliterating and whitening power this pigment finds extensive application in the manufacture of rubber, linoleum, leather, paper, plastics, soaps, textiles, ceramics, cosmetics and printing ink. To a much smaller extent Titanium alloyed with iron gives a certain class of alloys known as ferro-titanium alloys and special steels for making cutting tools, car wheels &c. An alloy of copper and titanium is used to purify copper for castings which are said to become close-grained in structure and free from blast holes by the addition of this alloy. The potential importance of Titanium minerals, however, lies in the fact that its industrial application is in the manufacture of a variety of sundry products of every day use.

Zircon. The next by-product obtained in the course of concentrating beach sands is zircon—a silicate of Zirconium. The demand for this mineral sand has never been very high, the annual tonnage having exceeded 1000 tons only in 1926 and 1929. Travancore zircon is fine and grannular and should not be mistaken for the "hyacinth" and "jargoon" varieties celebrated for their brilliance and lustre and which are cut as gems. The chief use of this silicate is for making zirconia refractories. Zirconia, the oxide of Zirconium, has a very high melting point (above 2500° C) and possesses a very low heat conductivity and an extremely small co-efficient of cubical expansion. It is also, when ignited, highly resistant to chemical reagents and, in view of these properties, finds use in the manufacture of refractories like furnace linings and bricks, crucibles, dishes, tubes and other laboratory ware. Zirconia is also used as an opacifier in the enamelling of hardware, Zirconium salts are used to a limited extent in the textile industry as mordants. Alloyed with iron and nickel, zirconium yields certain classes of special steels and alloys used for making armour plate and cutting tools.

Sillimanite. This is another by-product born of zircon. It is interesting to know that it was a small object like the sparking plug of an automobile engine that was responsible for a 'hunt' for this mineral. Large quantities of a typle for this mineral are being worked and exported from North India. Travancore Sillimanite, however, is slightly different from its Nothern Indian brother and is still only a four-year old babe. It is a silicate of aluminium and is used in the manufacture of refractories and also in the ceramic industry for incorporation in porcelain to which this material is said to give great tensile strength and toughness.

Rutile. Rutile is the latest addition to the list of accessory minerals accompanying ilmenite and monazite. This is an oxide of Titanium. Beginnings have just been made with the production of small tonnages of this mineral. Time has yet to prove its future possibilities, as, like all other rare minerals, the methods of concentrating it and keeping up stipulated grades are, by no means, simple.

These notes are brief and have no claim to be exhaustive. As stated already, revelations unfolded by continuous research are likely to affect demands for these minerals. But the variety of minerals found in the beach deposits is so great that the possibility of one or another of its members remaining always in the limelight of the world market is not in any sense remote.

(4) Fishery Resources

With a coast line of about 180 miles in length Travancore is specially fortunate in her wealth of fisheries. It has been calculated that there are about 40,000 families of fishermen in the State, most of whom are engaged in sea-fishing. The annual production is estimated at a cost of one crore and quarter rupees. According to Dr. C. C. John,

Professor of Marine Biology in the Travancore University, the income per year from fisheries for one unit of length of coast line for Travancore is Rs. 60,000, while the corresponding figure for Great Britain is Rs. 26,000, for Japan Rs. 16,000 and for America Rs. 14,000. Further, at present only the outer fringe within a distance of 5 to 7 miles only is worked. There are as many as a dozen kinds of fish. Travancore exports annually salted fish worth Rs. 15 lakhs. In certain months the conditions of fishing are decidedly more favourable. Among marine products shark liver oil, turtle oil and the body oil of Balistis are at present extracted in large quantities. The lake fisheries form a very important industry, as the chain of lakes, lagoons and other reservoirs of water is so continuous that the task of fishing is rendered very easy. The varieties of fish obtainable are considered highly valuable from a dietitic point of view. The most important of these migratory creatures are prawns, the annual catch of which is estimated at Rs. 22 lakhs. Of this quantity fish worth as much as Rs. 15 lakhs is dried and exported. In the lakes there is the shell fish industry which at present is confined to the collection of lime shells.

The steps taken by the Travancore Government to develop the fishery, resources will be found detailed in the portion dealing a review of the administration.

CHAPTER II

A HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

"Among the Native States in India Travancore holds a unique position. This is the only Hindu State which has not come under Mahomedan domination and which retains unimpaired its ancient Hindu type and character. Those who are familiar with the history of the State know and realise the full import and significance of the great act of State policy adopted in the middle of the 18" century by the illustrious Raja Martanda Varma of immortal fame by which the Sovereign, after subjugating the different principalities and chieftainships and consolidating them into the compact kingdom as you find it today, dedicated the whole State to the presiding Deity in Trivandrum and constituted himself the Servant and Agent of the Deity. The character thus stamped on the constitution of the State has never been lost sight of by his successors on the throne of Travancore and they have striven to discharge the sacred trust handed down to them with unswerving loyality. But the distinctive glory of Travancore lies in the fact that, while tradition and loyality tended towards rigid conformity to a well-defined type, the Sovereigns, especially those who have reigned since the dawn of the 19" century and come under the influence of Western ideas have given the country laws and adopted administrative measures which, while allowing the original character to be retained, have made Travancore one of the most progressive Native States in India, whether considered from the stand-point of the spread of education, the wise and enlightened arrangements made for the administration of justice, the protection of life and property and, above all, equality of treatment to all

religions. Travancore is thus an object lesson of what a Hindu State, when brought under the influence of enlightened and progressive ideas from the West, can achieve without losing the distinctive character imprinted upon it."—MR. V. P. MADHAVA RAO, C. I. E.

These are the wise and significant words which were addressed by one of the most distinguished and benevolent Dewans of Travancore, the late Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E. to the members of the first Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly which he inaugurated in 1904. It is this distinct character, this predominant feature, this remarkable vitality as a Hindu State which Travancore has to this day been maintaining unimpaired with its equally well known tolerance and sympathy with other religions in the State. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a remarkable fact in the history of the world.

This small State of Travancore—small in its physical constitution and territorial extent, but big as an administrative unit in the hegemony of India—occupies the south-western corner of this Indian continent and is one of the most ancient States in the Indian Empire. It still preserves intact the Aryan culture and the peculiar features of Malabar without any break in its age-long history of over two thousand years. In its present line of kings Travancore is proud to claim allegiance to a dynasty which traces its ancestry in unbroken continuity to the great Chera Emperors who shared the Sovereignty of South India with the Pandyas and Cholas who have ceased to exist. The history of the Cheras dawns with the great exploits of Cheran Chenkuttuvan whose expedition to North India and subjugation of the Aryan monarchs form the theme of the great Tamil epic, *Silappatikaram*, composed by the royal saint Ilamko-Atikal. The capital of Chenkuttuvan was Tiruvanchikkulam, celebrated in many ancient works as a great and beautiful city, noted

for its culture as well as for its position as an entrepot of international trade and a flourishing centre of civilisation, when Tamil language and Tamil literature exercised great influence and left the indelible impress of that literature on society in general. There were several Tamil works extant which shed their beneficent lustre on the people and threw a flood of light on the ways and habits of the people, their institutions and manners and customs. These have formed the source of information to later writers.

The history of the Imperial Cheras has been reconstructed from the old classical Tamil works. It is remarkable to note that even in those days there existed political organisations and institutions whose growth and development are described in those ancient Tamil works which delineate with equal force the religious and social life of the times. These admirable features are clearly brought to light by the patient and unwearied studies of scholars of considerable reputation who have given us a very good and graphic picture of a well-governed Kingdom where all the civilised arts and sciences received due recognition and patronage from its wise and enlightened rulers and a full measure of attention from the people. When we come to the later history of the Cheras and the vicissitudes of fortune which it was the lot of this country to bear under the Cheras, we have but a vague idea of events as revealed by the annals of those times. One fact which emerges out of this story seems to point to the circumstance, namely, that the territorial extent of the Cheras became diminished to a small portion of their former dominions. This narrowed territory was called Venad. It was a little kingdom from the point of view of its territorial extent, but was said to have had an independent existence from a political point of view and powerful enough to maintain itself against foreign aggression, though there were foes who desired its total annihilation. In those

days Venad had its distinct place in the history of Kerala and, at one time it comprised the territory between Kannetti in the north and Nanjanad in the south, as well as the mountain and the sea on the east and the west. On account of this vast area Quilon was made the capital of Venad. Apart from this position, from a political and administrative point of view, Quilon was at the time the greatest centre of international trade on the Malabar coast and it maintained this envious position, for a long time, as is testified to by unimpeachable facts of history. The antiquity of Quilon is also acknowledged, for the earliest king of Quilon of whom we have reliable evidence was Aiyan Atikal Tiruvatikal who is said to have ruled in the first century of the Malabar era. He made a grant of lands and also certain concessions to the congregation of the Tarisa Church founded by Sabir Iso, a Christian trader who flourished in those days. A thriving colony of Christians is also supposed to have congregated round this Church whose importance and popularity became very great. This may be considered as an important landmark of religious toleration so characteristic of even the early rulers of the land, a toleration which has considerably helped in the rapid growth and development of the Christian Church in Travancore.

As for the origin of the Malabar era, the generally accepted theory is one which has given support to a historical fact, testifying to the great influence which the then ruler of Venad exercised. It would appear that Udaya Martanda Varma, the king of Venad, called together a Conference of the great astronomers of the time at his capital, Quilon, and put before them the important question of a new era. It was after a full and elaborate discussion that the new era was inaugurated. It was immediately accepted not only throughout the Kerala Province, but also in certain parts of the Tamil District of

Tinnevelly. Here there are gaps and lacunae which are natural in the erratic course of events. No doubt, the spade of the archaeologist has done its work, which has added to the stock of our knowledge. In spite of all that, we have no definitely authentic records for giving a connected narrative which will lead us on to reliable historical conclusions. What one is forced to presume is that there were serious conflicts between Travancore and the Pandyan rulers and the Cholas. Both these powers are said to have extended their sway over this part of the West Coast. There appears to exist a theory that the Pandyan and Chola kings joined hands for purposes of aggression and that in this attempt the Chera kings of Travancore were reduced to a position of subordination. But a more careful and patient reading of history has revealed that the above theory is wrong. For, it is held by one school of South Indian historians that the Pandyans and Cholas held sway over Kanyakumari and the adjoining tracts which now form the southern part of Travancore. But it has to be remembered, that, during those days, these tracts lay outside the limits of Venad and that it was only after 320 M. E. that the kings of Venad were able to extend the limits of their dominions further south of Kottar which was a frontier military station of the Chola emperors for a long time. Another fact to be reckoned with in this connection is that researches have shown that the southernmost portion of what is now described as South Travancore belonged to the Ay Kings from whom it passed on to the possession of the Pandyas and the Cholas in succession. It was after the disruption of the central authority of the Cholas that Travancore was able to annex Kanyakumari and the neighbouring tracts to its dominions.

It is thus seen that among the early kings who maintained the independence of Venad was Sri Vallabhan Kotha who is

known to have lived in 149 M. E. (974 A. D.). A succession of kings is mentioned such as Govardhana Martanda, Vira Kerala Varma, Kotha Kerala Varma, Sri Vira Ravi Varma, Sri Vira Kerala Varma II, Udaya Martanda Varma and Sri Devadaran Kerala Varma. These take us to 368 M, E. (1193 A. D). The next two rulers deserve more than a passing notice. Sri Vira Rama Kerala Varma who ruled from 384 to 389 E. E. (1209-1214 A. D.) and Sri Vira Ravi Kerala Varma who died in 410 M. E. were benevolent kings. It was the latter who promulgated the well-known Manalikkara edict which granted important concessions to the agricultural population. His successor, Martanda Varma, became a powerful ruler and attained to imperial status. He had under him a number of feudatory chieftains. It was this prince who paved the way to the achievements of his great nephew, Ravi Varma Kulasekhara, the son of Jayasimha and Uma Devi.

The period of Ravi Varma is the brightest in the medieval history of Travancore. It was during his reign that Travancore attained to the hegemony of South India. Martanda Varma seems to have passed away before Ravi Varma came of age, and naturally the young prince must have imbued imperial ideas from his great father whom he describes as the king of Yadava princes. Ravi Varma showed marks of greatness even as a boy by defeating Vikrama Pandya and winning the daughter of the Pandyan king in marriage. Before he attained his thirty-third year, he brought the Pandya territories to subjection. Soon after, he over-ran the whole of the West Coast and established his undisputed authority. His ambition urged him to further conquests. He crossed the Sahyadri once again, conquered the whole of South India up to Nellore in the north and crowned himself Emperor on the banks of the Vegavati in the ancient and historic city of Kanchipuram. This event of unique importance was celebrated in 1313 A. D., in his 46th year of age.

The Kanchipuram inscription of Ravi Varma is a carefully prepared account of the career and achievements of the great Emperor. He repeated his coronation at Sri Rangam and Tiruvati proclaiming his sway over the Chera, Pandya and Chola kingdoms. He assumed the imperial title of Rajadhiraja Parameswara. A devout Hindu well-versed in the Sanskrit lore, he re-established the religious life of South India, renovated and consecrated many important Hindu shrines which had been demolished or desecrated by the Mohammadan invaders. Himself a great scholar and poet, he extended liberal patronage to poets and learned men. He was the author of *Pradyumnabhyudayam*, a Sanskrit drama, justly celebrated for its elegance and beauty.

The imperial position attained by Travancore under Ravi Varma was, however, short-lived. With his sudden and premature death in 1313 A. D., the newly acquired territories fell to pieces. The Kakatiyas of Warrangal and the Pandya king who had been driven away by Ravi Varma recovered possession of their lost dominions. Even the northern parts of Kerala conquered by Ravi Varma seem to have assumed practical independence.

During the next two or three centuries, very little is known about the political condition of Travancore. South India during this period suffered several Mohammadan invasions which spread desolation and ruin all over the land. The atrocities committed by the invaders at last brought their remedies too. The protection of Hindu faith and culture was ultimately achieved by the kings of Vijayanagar. The West Coast including Travancore, however, enjoyed security from the Mussalmans mainly on account of the Western Ghats which protected it as a mighty wall. The history of Travancore during this period was, therefore, one of peaceful administration. Of the successors of Vira Ravi Varma, the names of

Aditya Varma (505 M. E.,) Rama Martanda Varma, Aditya Varma, Sarvanganatha (550 M. E.), Vira Ravi Varma, and Chera Udaya Martanda Varma deserve mention. The first named Aditya Varma is generally regarded as the monarch who adopted two princesses from Kolathunad towards the close of the fifth century M. E., and installed them as Ranis of Attingal. The position of the Attingal Ranis is a subject of considerable importance in the history of Travancore, for the Ranis are the stocks of descent in the ruling family, succession invariably going to the eldest male issue born to them.

It appears that some time during the 6th and 7th centuries the members of the ruling family settled down in different parts of the State, at Nedumangad, Kottarakkara and Kalkulam. Troubles from Tinnevelly and the adjoining tracts appear to have been constant, and particular attention had to be devoted to prevent the anarchical chaos of Tinnevelly from spreading to Travancore. This made it imperative that the military headquarters of the State should be shifted to Kalkulam which in course of time became the capital of the kingdom. Quilon with its new name of Desinganad which it acquired in houour of the memory of Jayasimha, however, became the residence of the junior members of the royal family who administered the local affairs. The general history of this period receives some light from the accounts of several foreign travellers who visited Malabar. Society was well-organised, each community and each member enjoying the traditional status, and pursuing the traditional occupation with the physical and mental arts thriving under the patronage of kings and local chieftains.

The eighth and ninth centuries of the Malabar era witnessed several important events in the politics of South India. It was the period of the expansion of the Vijayanagar empire which championed the cause of Hinduism against the growing

power of the Mohammadans. But Travancore, unlike the rest of South India, did not stand in need of the helping hand of the Hindu empire, her mountain barriers affording her natural protection and the leadership of her kings and the excellent martial qualities of her soldiers providing her with ample power of resistance against aggressions from outside. A contact of the two States became inevitable; because the two powers bid for supremacy in the Tamil Nad. The first conflict between Vijayanagar and Travancore was about 678 M. E. (1503) and that was decidedly in favour of Travancore We have it on the authority of the Portuguese Viceroy, Alfonso Dalburque, that Travancore inflicted defeat on Vijayanagar. Since that time, for about a century and more, Travancore had to wage several wars with the kings of Vijayanagar and later on with the Nayaks of Madura who were their representatives in the South. Several writers on South Indian history have stated without sufficient authority that Vijayanagar and, in later times Madura received tribute from Travancore, But careful examination of all the evidence on the point discloses the fact that Travancore was always able to resist invasions and that she never paid tribute to any of these powers. Even so late as 1664 A. D. (839 M. E.) the Travancore armies were stationed at Kalkulam to resist any probable invasion by the Nayak of Madura.

It was during this period that the Portuguese came to Malabar in search of profitable trade. Their activities were mainly confined to the northern parts of Malabar, although they had important factories at Quilon and a few other centres in Travancore. The evangelical work of the Portuguese missionary, St. Francis Xavier, who resided in South Travancore during the first half of the 8th century M. E., bore rich fruit.

It is not necessary to fill a brief account like this with names of kings about whose career very little information is

available. Udaya Martanda Varma (710 M. E.) who had his headquarters at Kalakkad and some of his successors deserve prominent mention. The first named monarch was a powerful king who maintained the independence of Travancore against the onslaughts of Vijaynagar.

The ninth century M. E., is generally represented by historians as a lawless period in the history of Travancore. The weak reign of Aditya Varma, it is said, resulted in the assumption of power by the Yogakkar of the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple and their confederates, the so called Ettuvittil Pillamar who are said to have set at naught the authority of the king, not only in the management of the affairs of the temple but also in the affairs of the State. It is stated by some writers that the king's palace was set on fire, that Aditya Varma was poisoned to death and that five princes, sons of Umayamma Rani, were murdered at the Kalippankulam tank, a short distance to the south of the Fort in Trivandrum. There are others who hold that this story is not correct in all details. As regards the fate of Aditya Varma also, there are two versions. One is that he was poisoned at Puthankotta Palace in Trivandrum. The other is that he died a natural death at Darbhakulangara palace, Kalkulam, more than thirty miles south of Trivandrum. On his death Vira Kerala Varma of Nedumangad, a scion of the ruling family, claimed the throne for himself. But Umayamma Rani, the junior princess of Attingal, did not countenance his claim. There broke out a dispute of succession in which the Rani had the avowed support of the people. Ravi Varma, the minor prince, was proclaimed king, and the Rani assumed the regency during the period of his nonage. In 860 M. E. when Ravi Varma came of age, Umayamma Rani handed over the reins of Government to him and retired into private life. It was this queen who in 1684 A. D. laid the foundation of the British alliance by granting a place for the English traders to erect a factory at Idava,

The reigns of Ravi Varma (860-893) and his two successors, Aditya Varma and Rama Varma, are not worthy of any special attention, except for the frequent incursions into southern parts of the State by marauding bands from Tinnevelly. But the accession of Martanda Varma to the throne in 905 M. E., was the opening of a new era of political expansion and centralisation of power in the hands of the monarch. During his reign of twenty-eight years, the political map of the West Coast, especially the southern half of it, underwent many changes, Travancore absorbing all the kingdoms and principalities south of Cochin. Cochin itself was able to preserve its independence only by a timely appeal to the mercy of Martanda Varma.

Martanda Varma's first acts were calculated to consolidate Venad by his assuming direct authority over Attingal, Elayedathusvarupam and Desinganad which were then under several branches of the ruling family. This programme of centralisation of political authority alarmed the Dutch who had been for a century a power in the politics of Malabar, forming confederacies and fomenting family dissensions in ruling houses. They joined hands with the prince of Kayamkulam and the Raja of Desinganad to check the expansion of Travancore which, they feared, would be to their ruin. Martanda Varma, however, inflicted defeat after defeat upon them, first at Colachel and then at Quilon and other places. The war with Quilon ultimately led to the conquest of Kayamkulam, Thekkumkkur, Vatakkumkur and Ampalapuzha and to the foundation of the modern State of Travancore. It is the general view of old writers on the history of Travancore that Martanda Varma did not enjoy the support of his people, nay, that he was pursued from place to place by anti-royalists and that he was obliged to seek the help of foreign mercenaries for establishing his authority. These stories are nothing

more than figments. There were, of course, some who upheld the claims of the Quilon Raja in preference to those of Martanda Varma for succession to the throne of Venad. But the bulk of the people stood by Martanda Varma and it was with their active assistance that he pursued his programme of conquests and consolidation.

The work of Martanda Varma was indeed great. It was the accession to strength achieved during his time that enabled this State to stem the tide of the invasion of Tippu who was successful in capturing the whole of the Malabar Coast as far south as Cochin, and in reducing the king of Cochin to the position of a feudatory. Thus did Martanda Varma's work ultimately preserve the culture of Kerala and maintain the traditions of Malabar. His spirit of religious resignation and selfless devotion to the cause of the kingdom is best illustrated by that great Act of State policy under which he dedicated the State to Sri Padmanabha, the tutelary deity, he himself assuming the title of Sri Padmanabha Dasa, the servant of God.

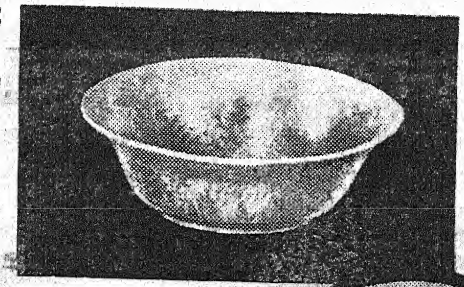
If Martanda Varma was the founder of modern Travancore, it was destined for his illustrious nephew and successor Rama Varma Kartika Thirunal (933—973 M. E.) to consolidate the conquests, adding new territories like Alangad and Parur, and preserving the newly founded kingdom against the invasions from Mysore and the aggressions of the Nawab of the Carnatic. Rama Varma's long and glorious reign had been an eventful period during which Travancore had to wage several wars with the Zamorin of Calicut, with the Poligars of Tinnevelly and with the usurpers of Mysore. The first treaty of alliance with the English was concluded during his reign in 971 M. E. (1795). The civil administration of the period left nothing to be desired as is testified to by Fra Bartolomeo who resided in the State for a pretty long time during this reign and received much kindness and consideration at the hands of the Maharaja. Says Bartolomeo, "Public security is secured throughout

the whole country, robbery and murder are no longer heard of; no one had occasion to be afraid on the highways; religious worship is never interrupted; and people may rest assured that on every occasion justice will be speedily administered." The people of Travancore cherish the memory of this great king whom they call Dharma Raja, the just ruler.

The reign of Bala Rama Varma (973—986) was a temporary set-back to the progress of the State and is generally considered to be a dismal chapter in the annals of Travancore. The young Maharaja was surrounded by intriguing favourites who had no concern for the interests of the people and the State. A popular rising headed by Velu Tampi who later on became the Dalava or Prime Minister put an end to the evils of the administration and gave relief to the favourite-ridden State. But fresh troubles were in store. The subsidy due to the Honourable English Company as agreed to by the terms of the alliance fell into arrears. Dalava Velu Tampi disbanded the army to effect economy and find funds for clearing the arrears. This resulted in serious trouble, as the disbanded soldiers rose in rebellion. Velu Tampi suppresed the revolt with the assistance of the Resident, an assistance which paved the way to a modification of the treaty (1805) giving the Hon. Company certain rights of intervention in the internal affairs of the State. The amount of subsidy was also raised.

Matters took a more serious turn when the subsidy again fell into arrears. The Resident, Col. Macaulay and Velu Tampi, who were up till then personal friends, quarelled over the question of remitting the arrears to the Company. Tampi was ultimately driven to the necessity of setting himself up against the Hon. Company mainly owing to the irritable and impolitic conduct of Col. Macaulay. There broke out a wide spread insurrection. Paliyath Achan, the Minister of Cochin, also sided with Velu Tampi. But on the arrival of a British force the insurrection was completely quelled. Velu

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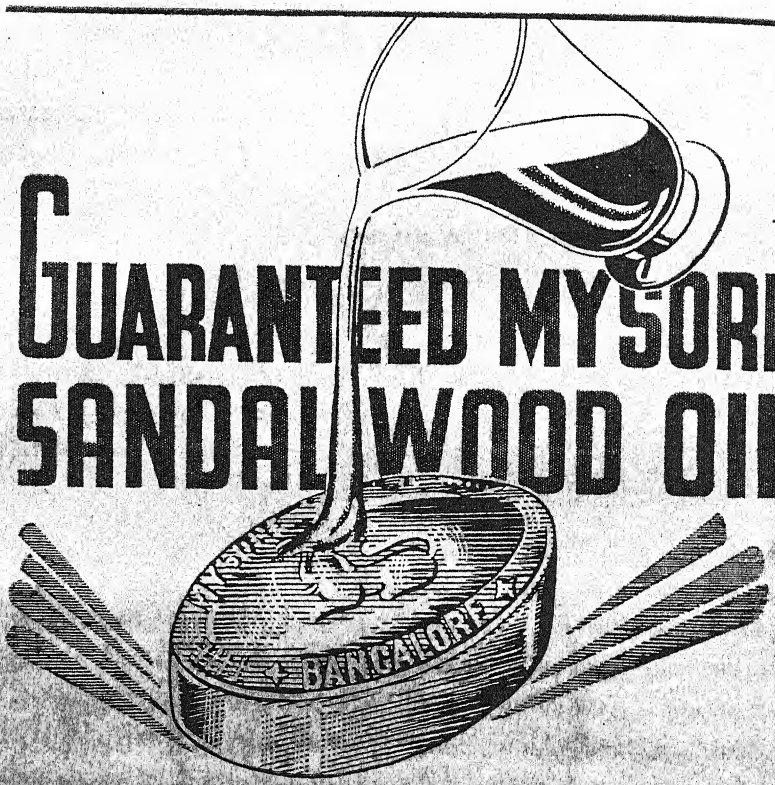
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Tampi killed himself at his refuge at Mannadi. Peace was soon established and the alliance with the Company re-affirmed.

The troubled reign came to a sudden close in 986 M. E. by the premature death of Bala Rama Varma. His two immediate successors were Rani Gowri Lakshmi Bayi and Rani Gowri Parvathi Bayi. The influence of the Resident. Col. Munro, who was also for some time the Dewan, was a marked feature of the reigns of the two Rains. Several reforms, administrative, social and religious, were carried out during the period of the Ranis, which led to many changes in the machinery of Government, modelled on the British system of public administration.

The reign of Swati Tirunal witnessed a complete transformation in the activities of the State (1004-1022 M. E.). Many new institutions and departments which in later times developed into important branches of the Government in its nation-building activities owe their origin to the foresight of this Maharaja who could appreciate the spirit of the changing times and understand the needs of the new era of British imperialism which became established in India. Munsiffs' Courts and Zilla Courts were established, and a Code of laws was promulgated. An Engineering department was organized. The Charity Hospital, the Trivandrum Observatory and several other institutions were brought into existence. But this march of progress was impeded during the last seven years of the Maharaja by the obstructions thrown in the way by the Resident Cullen who had some misunderstanding with the Maharaja. The Maharaja led a secluded life, giving himself up to devotional exercises and caring little for the administration of the State. Swati Tirunal was a great scholar, and an inspired poet. He was an accomplished musician and an erudite linguist, a distinguished composer whose songs in seven Indian languages are sung in several parts of India even to-day.

Utram Tirunal, the younger brother and successor of Swati Tirunal (1022-1036) was also an accomplished prince. It was during his reign (in 1855 A. D.) that the slaves were enfranchised in Travancore. Although he was free from the troubles with the Resident which clouded the closing years of his brother, he had to face other difficulties of a not less serious nature. The European missionaries submitted several petitions to the Madras Government and the Madras papers published a series of articles severely criticising the evils of administration of the State. The Government of Madras, thereupon, wrote a strong letter calling upon the Maharaja to take immediate steps to remove the complaints. When, however, matters were presented in their true aspect, the authorities of the Madras Government were satisfied.

The reign of Rama Varma Ayiliam Tirunal (1036—1055 M. E.) raised Travancore to the front rank among the Indian States, so much so that the proud appellation 'Model State' came first to be applied to this kingdom by the British Parliament. Several reforms were carried out during his reign in quick succession. A large number of oppressive taxes including the monopoly on paper and tobacco were abolished. The Interportal Convention, although it entailed great loss of revenue on this State, threw open the coastal trade of British India by removing restrictions of trade between Travancore and the British districts. The Judiciary received due attention. The Anchal department (indigenous postal service) which was until then confined to Government use was thrown open to the public. The greatest of the reforms was the enfranchisement of the Sircar pattam lands, which conferred proprietary rights over landed property on private owners. The spread of education achieved during the reign was remarkable. Many schools and a College for higher education were established. Public works and medical aid also received due consideration of the Government.

The progress achieved by the State elicited the appreciation of His Majesty who conferred the title of Maharaja on His Highness.

Sri Visakham Tirunal succeeded Maharaja Ayiliam Tirunal in 1055 M. E. The Maharaja had a very ambitious programme of administrative reforms. But he did not live long enough to carry out all his schemes of reforms. Every department of public activity felt the animating and inspiring personality of the Maharaja who was a terror to corruption and venality. One of the important events of the period was the settlement of the long-disputed Travancore-Cochin boundary question. The Maharaja passed away after a short reign of five years.

The reign of Sri Mulam Tirunal was one of the longest as it was one of the brightest in the history of modern Travancore. He ascended the throne in 1060 when he was twenty-eight years old and died in 1099 M. E. Many are the benevolent acts and statesmanlike policies associated with the Maharaja. His long reign has been a march of progress in internal improvement and also the public life of the State. The long era of peace, prosperity and plenty which he secured for his people has singled him out as a statesman in the front rank of rulers noted for simplicity of life well spent for the good of the country and the advancement of the people. His complete self-effacement, his unostentations ways, his ever-ready earnestness to build a new Travancore, his intensely religions life and the impact of his moral atmosphere have set a remarkably high standard of rulership rarely approached by any member of the Princely Order. The long list of benevolent measures which he initiated and carried out during his glorious reign of forty years in the different fields of public activity—administrative, legislative, constitutional, economic and social—has signalised his rule as the Golden Age in the history of the State and laid broad and deep the stable foundations of representative Government in which the people were

given a live and real voice in matters affecting their welfare—a form of representative Government in which the seeds of modern democracy were sown at a time when this term itself was unknown to most of the States in India. It is on account of these wise and far-reaching reforms conceived in the best spirit and carried out with the best of intentions, step by step, and, stage by stage, that His Highness Sri Mulam Tirunal will ever be remembered by generations yet unborn as a Great Rajarshi.

On the sad demise of His Highness Sri Mulam Tirunal on the 7th August, 1924, His Highness Sri Padmanabha Dasa Vanchi Pala Bala Rama Varma Kulasekhara Kiritapati Manney Sultan Maharaja Raja Rama Raja Bahadur Shamsher Jung Sri Chittira Tirunal was recognised by the Government of India as lawful heir to the musnad and proclaimed Maharaja of Travancore on the 1st September, 1924. But as His Highness was a minor, Her Highness Sri Padmanabha Sevini Vanchi Dharma Vardhini Raja Rajeswari Maharani Setu Lakshmi Bayi Maharaja C. I. as the senior female member of the Ruling family, was proclaimed Regent to rule the Travancore State and to control the administration thereof until His Highness the Maharaja be invested with ruling powers. Her Highness accordingly assumed the Rulership of the State and reigned for seven years. At the end of this period when His Highness the Maharaja was invested with Ruling Powers, His Excellency Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy, in the course of his Kharita to His Highness, observed :—

" Your Highness is fortunate in succeeding to the inheritance of a State which has been administered in a most statesmanlike fashion not only by your predecessors but also by Her Highness the Maharani Regent during your minority. The debt which Your Highness and the Travancore State owe to Her Highness the Maharani Regent is one which is difficult for me to estimate or for Your Highness to repay.

His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharajah.

His Highness Sir Bala Rama Varma—to give His Highness' full name—His Highness Sri Padmanabha Dasa Vanchi Pala Sir Bala Rama Varma Kulasekhara Kiritapati Manney Sultan Maharaja Raja Ramaraja Bahadur Shamsher Jang Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, D.Litt., Maharaja of Travancore, was born on the 7th November, 1912 in the star Chitra and is, therefore, known as Chitra Tirunal Maharaja. Her Highness Maha Rani Setu Parvathi Bai, D.Litt, the mother of His Highness the Maha Raja, has two sons and a daughter, His Highness the Maharaja being the eldest among them. When His Highness was five years old, he began his studies in Malayalam, his mother-tongue. His Highness made remarkable progress in his studies under both Indian and European Tutors and acquired proficiency in Malayalam, Sanskrit and English. He was very keen at sports and soon became a good tennis player and an excellent horseman. Among his hobbies are carpentry and photography. His wide travels under the inspiring guidance of the Queen-Mother brougt him in close contact with distinguished personalities throughout India and Europe. His Highness was thus enabled even from his very early days to cultivate a wide outlook on life. His Highness supplemented this training by an intimate and intensive study of the social and economic conditions of his own people within the State. He visited every part of Travancore with a view to understand the needs of the rural population. Even before His Highness assumed ruling powers, he acquainted himself with all the branches of the State administrative machinery and was thus fully equipped for the guiding of governmental activities to serve the best interests of his people. In the decision of delicate and difficult administrative problems His Highness' wisdom and judgment have been of invaluable assistance to successive Dewans. His Highness is an engaging conversa-

tionist. Distinguished visitors, both Europeans and Indians, have expressed their admiration of the charm and ease of His Highness' manners and have borne testimony to his deep erudition and mastery in matters of general public interest. His Highness is an accomplished musician and is a distinguished patron of fine arts.

With the demise of His Highness the late Sir Sri Mulam Tirunal Maharaja, His Highness Sri Chitra Tirunal ascended the throne of his ancestors on the 1st September 1924. His Highness being a minor, the administration of the State was entrusted to Her Highness Setu Lakshmi Bayi, the Senior Maha Rani as Regent. His Highness assumed Ruling powers on the 6th November 1931.

The European Tour

Particular mention has to be made here of the European tour His Highness undertook in 1933. His Highness was the first Ruler of Travancore to cross the seas and thus establish a wholesome precedent. In this tour His Highness was accompanied by his mother, Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi D. Litt., the Elaya Raja and the First Princess. The Royal party left Bombay on the 8th April 1933. After visiting Port Said *en route*, they reached Marseilles on the 21st April. In the course of their tour on the Continent they visited Nice, Cannes, Grasse, Monaco and Monte Carlo and at Juan les Pins, Her Highness the Princess and the Elaya Raja enjoyed a short flight in a seaplane. The Royal party spent seventeen days at the Austrian capital where there were several social functions. Karlsbad was the next place to be visited. Here in this famous watering place Their Highnesses spent three weeks and then passed on to Marienbad and Prague. The party then reached Paris where a number of social functions awaited them. Their Highnesses arrived in London on the 14th June. The most important function in London was the

dinner given by His Highness in honor of the Rt. Hon'ble Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India. Sir Samuel Hoare paid a tribute of high praise to Travancore and to the administration of the State, particularly the legislative reforms which liberalised the popular institutions in the State and conferred extensive powers on the people's representatives. He emphasised his interest in the remarkable constitutional experiment that Travancore was making. He said that in constitutional discussions the steps taken by Travancore would be of grest illustrative value.

Sir Samuel Hoare recalled that Travancore had been known in the past as the land of the Goddess of Prosperity and the country of Charity and Righteousness. He was sure that His Highness would justify these titles and wished him success in maintaining the ideals of true kingship side by side with the great constitutional changes already inaugurated. Among other important events were the lunch and Garden party given by Their Majesties the King and Queen and the interviews His Highness had with many eminent men from different parts of the world. Their Highnesses had another tour in the European continent in the course of which several important cities were visited and their Highnesses were the recipients of warm and enthusiastic welcome throughout their stay in Europe. They arrived in Bombay on the 24th August and on reaching Madras on the 28th August the Mayor presented to His Highness the Maharaja the Municipal Address of welcome at the Corporation Buildings. Their Highnesses returned to Trivandrum on the 27th August. It is noteworthy that, during this tour extending over four and a half months, Their Highnesses partook only of Indian food to which they have been accustomed and wore only their simple Indian dress which evoked admiration wherever they went. The opportunities thus afforded to obtain first-hand knowledge of western life and western

culture in the field of Education, Commerce, Industry, Public Health, Municipal Administration, Architecture and Town Planning were fully availed of by Their Highnesses. How Travancore has been benefited by this short but successful tour of His Highness will be seen from the Chapter dealing with a review of His Highness' rule.

One cannot ignore the social aspect of the tour. The warm welcome and the glorious appreciation that awaited Their Highnesses at Madras from the Nampudiri Yogakshema Sabha and other Kerala associations tended to explode the myth that the crossing of the seas had not the sanction of religion or was opposed to the rules of caste. Within the State itself the return of His Highness and the other members of the Royal Party was hailed with the greatest enthusiasm. Nambudiri Brahmins from North Travancore came to the capital of the State to present addresses and assure His Highness and Her Highness of their high appreciation of the European tour. The Antharjanams presented separate addresses to Her Highness the Maharani and Her Highness the Princess. Thus the educative value of the European tour was enhanced by results achieved in disabusing the public mind of the supposed disabilities consequent upon a journey across the seas.

The Netherlands East Indies Tour

The next tour of importance outside the State was the one undertaken to the Netherlands East Indies in 1937. His Highness the Maharaja was accompanied by Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvathi Bayi and the Elaya Raja. Their Highnesses left Trivandrum on the 27th April and visited Ceylon, the ports of Sabang and Balawan in Sumatra before reaching Singapore on the 4th May. Everywhere Their Highnesses received imposing and rousing welcome and the one at Singapore was specially grand, the international crowd



HER HIGHNESS MAHARANI SETU PARVATI BAYI, D. Litt. OF TRAVANCORE

that assembled there being so vast that the Sikh Police found it difficult to maintain order. When Batavia was reached, signal official honours awaited Their Highnesses. At Buitenmorg, the seat of His Excellency the Governor-General of the East Indies, a ceremonial reception was extended to Their Highnesses. From Batavia Their Highnesses travelled right across the island, visiting Bandoeng, the craters of Tangkoeban Prahu and important institutions like the Technological College, the Sundanese Girls' school of Domestic Science etc. Her Highness the Maharani was given a special reception by the Joint Women's Societies of Bandoeng. Their Highnesses were entertained at various social gatherings at which the different varieties of indigenous dancing impressed them very much. Their Highnesses visited every important place of interest including Hindu temples erected and maintained by the Indian residents in the island. A special feature of these temples was that they were open to all classes of Hindus. The example set by His Highness was followed in this respect. At Penang. Their Highnesses visited the Snake Temple, the Ayerelum Temple, the sacred Tortois Tank and the Botanical Gardens. While returning, Their Highnesses were presented with a Civic Address at Colombo by the Mayor at the Municipal Hall. Their Highnesses reached Trivandrum on 24th June.

The details of the two tours have been given here to demonstrate the deep interest which His Highness has taken in studying conditions in foreign lands with a view to apply the knowledge and experience gained in the course of the travels for the benefit of his own people.

Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi, D. Litt.

Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvathi Bai, the mother of His Highness the Maharaja, was born on the 6th November 1896. Her Highness belonged to the Mavelikara Family famous for its rich heritage of talents and distinction in the

field of scholarship, culture and aesthetics. Her Highness was barely four years old when on the 31st August 1900 she was adopted to the Ruling House. Under able and distinguished tutors Her Highness soon acquired proficiency in Malayalam, Sanskrit, English, and French. Even from childhood Her Highness showed a remarkable tendency for extensive reading and critical study. Her spirit of enquiry and avidity for acquiring more and more knowledge on a variety of topics was insatiable. Her Highness' inherent taste for music and Her Highness' devotion to cultivate that art have acquired for her a mastery and proficiency which have evoked the admiration of the expert. Her Highness is thus an accomplished connoisseur of art and is an unrivalled critic of both western and oriental artists. Her Highness has travelled extensively in India, Europe and the Netherlands East Indies and has visited several places of commercial and cultural importance. She has taken special interest in centres of art and seats of learning and culture, oriental and western. The spirit of service is the dominant characteristic of Her Highness whose unselfish devotion to the task of social uplift and economic amelioration of the people of Travancore gave her the inspiration to undertake such wide travels. She was, in fact, the first member of the Travancore Ruling Family to cross the seas and this departure from a meaningless and obsolete custom was widely appreciated by all classes of people including the orthodox Nampudiris, male and female. Her Highness was accompanied in her travels by His Highness the Elaya Raja and Her Highness the first Princess. In the various addresses presented to Her Highness genuine appreciation was recorded by the people for the lead given by Her Highness in the field of social reform. At the same time the tours in Europe only confirmed Her Highness' conviction that old traditions required to be cherished. Her Highness stated in the course of an interview that she was keenly impressed with "the great



HIS HIGHNESS UTHRADAM THIRUNAL
ELAYA RAJA OF TRAVANCORE

solicitude displayed in most European countries to preserve their old heritage not only of art and ancient monuments but also of folklore and national and local institutions." Her creed in matters, social and religious, is to build on old foundations and never to condemn institutions, practices and conventions simply because they are old and time-worn.

Her Highness has evinced keen interest in the social welfare and uplift of women. In this great task of national regeneration she has attained remarkable success. As President of the All-India Social Conference of Women held at Calcutta in 1928 and as President of the All-India Women's Conference at Trivandrum Her Highness has been displaying a sincere and sustained interest in the cause of the social and political progress of Indian womanhood. A country blessed with a Queen Mother so progressive and accomplished and whose beneficent influence on the young Maharaja has already borne fruit in the various measures of far-reaching importance for the political, religious, social and economic rehabilitation of Travancore is indeed fortunate. The Andhra and Benares Universities have honoured themselves by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Literature on Her Highness.

His Highness the Elaya Raja.

His Highness Martanda Varma, Elaya Raja of Travancore, was born on 22 March, 1922 and is brother of His Highness the Maharaja. Though yet a student eager in his studies, His Highness has already shown himself to be of more than average intelligence and grasp. His dignified carriage, his active habits, his extraordinary interest in books and hobbies like photography and mechanical arts, his charming personality, his pleasant manners and his attractive powers of conversation give promise of a bright career and have already secured for His Highness quite a large circle of admirers. He has already begun to take personal interest in

the affairs of State and in matters affecting public weal. The speeches he has delivered have created high hopes of his noble impulse and public spirit.

Her Highness the First Princess

Her Highness Lakshmi Bayi, the First Princess and sister of His Highness the Maharajah, was born on 17th September, 1916 and is reputed for her culture and accomplishments of a varied nature. A voracious reader of books, a diligent lover of arts, an accomplished musician, a fine conversationlist, Her Highness is indeed a centre of attraction in the ideal domestic circle of the Royal House, giving her love to her brothers and mother and thus cementing the admirable union in the household and making them a happy family.

The First Prince, His Highness Rama Varma, was born on the 5th January 1938 and is the nephew of His Highness the Maharaja, being the son of Her Highness the First Princess.



PRINCESS KARTHIKA THIRUNAL with PRINCE AVITTAM THIRUNAL

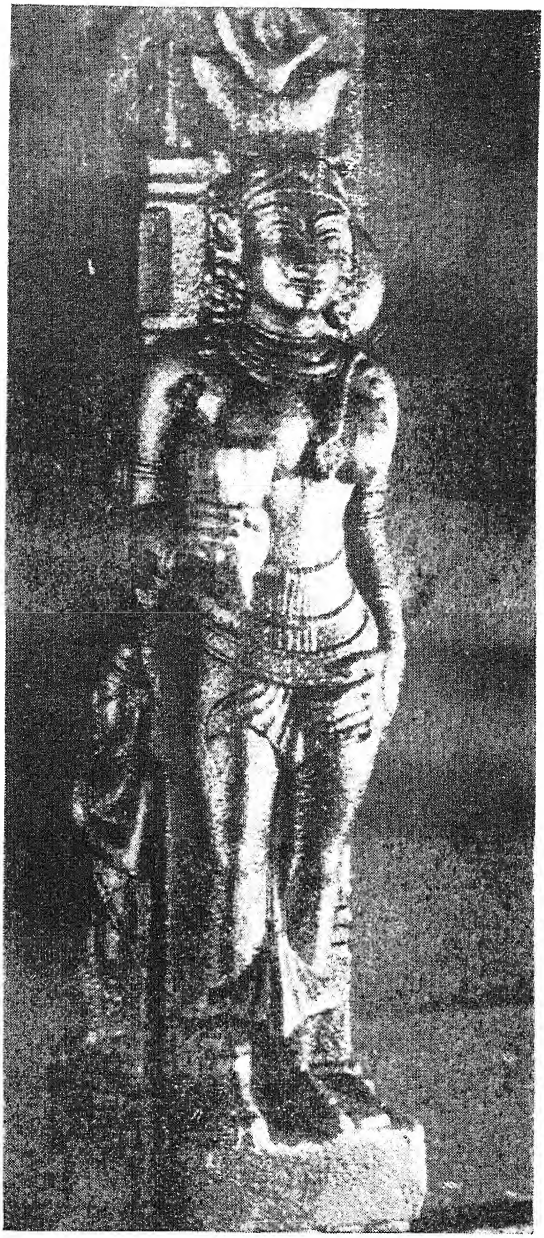
CHAPTER III

FINE ARTS IN TRAVANCORE.

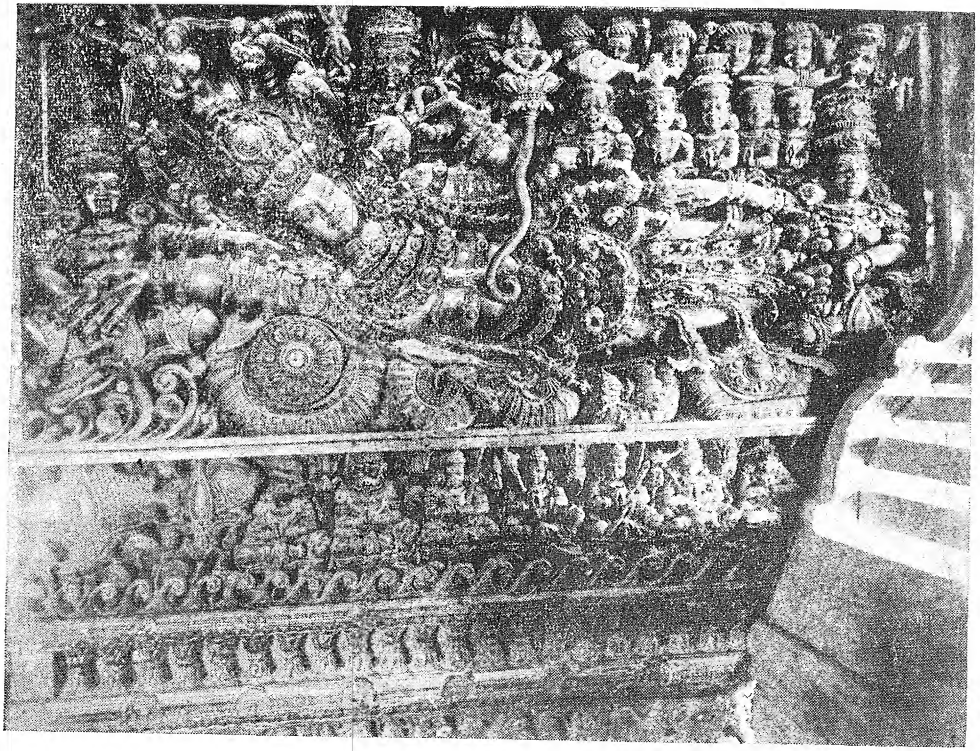
"Life without industry is guilt, and industry without art is brutality, but beautiful art can only be produced by people who have beautiful things about them and leisure to look at them."—RUSKIN.

The word 'art' is defined as the human skill by which beautiful or perfect things are done or made. The various processes we go through in common with the lower animals every day in our life such as breathing, sleeping, seeing and thinking, are not included under the category of 'art' for the obvious reason that the word 'art' refers to the skilful use of human gifts, especially of an imaginative kind such as the gift to paint a picture, the gift to compose a poem and the gift to make a beautiful figure in wood, stone or ivory. These are generally described as 'Fine Arts' which are music, painting, sculpture, architecture and poetry. Whichever of these 'fine arts' is taken up for study or research in Travancore, one arresting fact that emerges from even a hasty survey of them is that Travancore has been specially blessed with a rich store-house of these extraordinary talents of a varied character and also with their antiquity, scarcely equalled—not certainly surpassed—by many other parts of India—Indian or British. Many marvellous specimens of fine art are displayed in most of the temples of the State. It is a historical fact beyond cavil or question that Travancore is one of the most ancient Hindu States in India, dating its origin to centuries before the Birth of Christ. Free from the tramels of conquest or invasion, sequestered from the attacks of political foes and the onslaughts of religious fanatics, perched

between the deep sea on one side and the high mountain on the other, Travancore has remained for centuries a distinct unit of administration owing no obligation of any kind to others and owning a culture of its own in the realm of arts and letters, appreciated and admired by travellers and visitors even from the classic days of European history. It was in view of these remarkable and unprecedented features in its early annals that the late Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E., one of the distinguished Dewans of Travancore, made the significant observation in one of his political utterances, *viz.*, "Travancore is an object lesson of what a Hindu State, when brought under the influence of enlightened and progressive ideas from the West, can achieve without losing the distinctive character imprinted upon it." So far as the treasures and the valuable relics connected with them are concerned, they are distinctly preserved in the Hindu temples which, unfortunately, not being open to non-Hindus and non-caste Hindus, had remained undiscovered until recently, when the Archaeological and Epigraphical researches conducted, brought out one aspect of these "Fine Arts", *viz.*, specimens of sculpture in stone, images in bronze, mural paintings and wood carvings, which, for their antiquity, delicacy in workmanship, richness in imagination, variety in design, intricacy in execution, and abundant love of the work lavished on them, are to-day objects of deep and earnest study and veneration. The makers of these artistic treasures were craftsmen, all but unlettered in the modern sense of the word, but were guided and influenced by a system of education, real and essential in scope, which the modern world may well copy with considerable benefit to mankind. The very fact that even the names of these workers are not known and could not be traced, coupled with the circumstance that they had developed technical skill and knowledge of a high order, bears undying testimony to their real, abiding love of art and their disinterested zeal and



Sculptured Granite Pillar



Ananthasayanam

devotion to a legacy which later generations of the world have learned to admire and imitate. The paintings so far brought to light show a well established and well recognised pictorial tradition current in the State in the early days. The earliest relics of mural paintings found on the walls of the rock-cut cave temples at Thirunanthikkara in South Travancore, the fresco paintings on the walls and ceiling of the Suchindram temple and the walls of the famous pagoda at Cape Comorin, and of Sri Krishna inside the Sri Padmanabha temple, Trivandrum, are all wonderful works of art. The latter set of sculptures in Trivandrum comprise figures of women dressed in different kinds and styles of drapery with as many varieties of jewellry, all of which denote an extraordinary display of the artists' chisel and a pictorial style original in conception and unapproached till now in execution. Although there is no historical evidence to indicate the exact date of several temples in Travancore, such as those of Sri Padmanabha in Trivandrum, Suchindram, Thiruvattar, Tiruppatisaram, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Thrikkotithanam, Thrikkakara and Thrikkariyur, they are very very ancient and the sculptural works in them necessarily go back to a considerably early date.

The mural paintings on the walls of the topmost floor of the three-storied Palace at Padmanabhapuram, the ancient capital of the State, afford another striking instance of artistic skill of a high order. They are even today as fresh and clear as if they were drawn recently and are designed wonderfully. Wood carving also seems to have been prevalent in these seats of religious worship to the same extent as stone-carving and has not been less noted for intricacy or delicacy in execution or variety in design. Several palaces and residences of private individuals also abound in styles peculiar to them. In the words of Dr. J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser to the Government of Travancore, "the indigenous impulse to decoration

that recognised the beauty inherent in both natural and imaginary fauna and flora, as well as "the beauty of holiness" showed itself in other materials than wood, and ramified into places and uses in which it is all the more attractive because unexpected and perhaps still more so because unnecessary."

In this connection it has to be mentioned that Travancore has, for several centuries, been the undisputed home of ivory-carving which has been rightly brought under "Fine Arts" and has gained world-wide recognition. Numerous articles displaying the delicate handiwork of the ivory carver are in the Palace archives. The ivory palanquin which the Ruler has been using for several centuries past for the State procession in connection with his birthday every year is a fine example of magnificent and delicate ivory-carving done with exquisite taste and in a style which will strike any layman as intricate in design and complex in its involutions and ramifications. Closely allied to this is the Kuftigari work in which the decorative design is produced by silver wire beaten into a roughened iron surface which is subsequently polished. The level of artistic excellence reached in this work in Travancore has been considered by some art critics as very high and I have been told by lovers of art that the Travancore School of Arts is one of the very few places in India where this work is done. The growth and development of fine arts in Travancore from early times were due to the liberal and continuous encouragement given by the Rulers among whom were distinguished votaries of fine arts in one form or other, e. g., musicians and poets.

This lamp of fine arts which, like the perpetual light (*Vatavilakku*) in some of the temples, has ever been shining steadily for centuries, has had its wick trimmed and the age-old coconut oil used has been replaced by Kerosine oil first and later on electricity took its proper place as motive power

for lighting, which throws its brilliant rays into the dark corners and crevices and has thus removed the darkness. We owe this gradual evolution to the artistic genius and fostering care of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja and his distinguished and cultured mother whose commendable enthusiasm and in-born taste and flair for fine arts found outward expression in several of the institutions brought into existence or improved thoroughly during the past nine years. A description of these will be attempted in the following pages of the book.

CHAPTER IV

THE RENGA VILAS ART GALLERY.

A Magnificent Collection

" A careful conservation of the art treasures of the past and the stimulation of every form of artistic endeavour and the attempts made to create and maintain wide spread popular interest in music, painting and sculpture, are things which we cannot appreciate aright unless we travel abroad".—HER HIGHNESS MAHARANI SETU PARVATI BAYI D. LITT.

Herein lie the spirit and the impulse behind this magnificent institution which affords relaxation to a jaded mind, education for a tourist, admiration for an artist and a thrill for a Travancorean. The Travancore Royal Family owns many simple and neatly built Palaces in the Fort on account of a belief that each Ruler entertained probably because of his feelings of respect and reverence for his predecessor—a sentiment that Hindus can well appreciate—that he should not live in the Palace of his uncle or brother but should have his own. Thus arose the Renga Vilas Palace constructed by His Highness Ayillyam Tirunal Maharaja (1860-80).

Music-lovers can never afford to forget this Palace, but will cherish it with reverence from the fact that this was the happy scene of several music parties and performances in the days of His Highness Ayilliam Tirunal Maharaja, a profound and remarkably clever singer, whose unsurpassed vocal performance astonished the most reputed of the professionals in Southern India and attracted them to his court. It was here again that music duels and competitions used to be held—vocal as well as instrumental—at which the Royal singer presided



Renga Vilas Palace Art Gallery

and guided those entertainments, correcting the professionals sometimes, and, participating himself and evoking their admiration. As this admirable structure was vacant, it struck Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvathi Bayi D. Litt. to collect together all the art specimens and curios which each Ruler had as a hobby in his own palace during his life time. In this task the services of Dr. J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser to Government, were availed of. The *Attapandal* or theatre for the oldest form of dance extant in Kerala, namely, *Kathakali*, is an imposing annexe to this palace and is hallowed ground from an artistic point of view, because it was here that local histrionic talent found expression in *Kathakali*, the earlist form of drama in Malabar, which had its origin in Travancore. The writer of this book is familiar with this *Attapandal*, as he has spent several truant nights as a school-boy in witnessing the *Kathakali* performances during the *Navaratri* Festival more than 55 years ago. It was in 1935 that Her Highness the Queen Mother declared open this Art Gallery, this unique assembling of things beautiful and artistic, this treasure-house of art, this vast and varied collection which has since evoked admiration from distinguished artists—both in India and outside. As it is the desire of Her Highness to make this Gallery more attractive to visitors and develop in all possible ways the really artistic side, the latest addition made has taken the form of seven human figures representing the different characters of *Kathakali*. All these are done in wood, the workmanship being fine examples of exquisite carving, true to life and realistic in their presentation, of such characters as Sri Rama, Ravana, Hanuman, Bali, Sita, etc. etc., Another advantage of such addition is that the fast decadent family of art-workers and craftsmen fortunately left is encouraged and saved from practical extinction.

On entering the Hall, one first sees the beautiful bronze lamps, tall and stately, used even to-day in temples and for

the age-old performance of *Kathakali*. There are seven lamps each of which is 5 feet high. The circumference at the base is 4 feet and 2 inches and of the lamps 3 feet 11 inches. There is an original contrivance of an oil tank for cocoanut oil used to light the lamps. It exudes automatically and fills the wicks of each lamp with oil and makes them ready for ignition. These lamps are said to be more than 400 years old. In the same room is to be seen a fine and varied collection of priceless old china, gathered in through centuries of eventful history by various Maharajas. It is believed that there was a Chinese settlement in Travan core more than 400 years ago. This colony made Quilon its head-quarters for the reason that the backwaters round about that ancient town contained from early times an inexhaust-ible supply of excellent and superior Kaolin for the manu-facture of chinaware. There cannot be a stronger proof of the soundness of this theory than the establishment of the Ceramic factory started last year at Kundara, a few miles from Quilon. where the Kaolin manufactured has already created a large demand from outside the State. This belief is supported by the exceedingly fine specimens of chinaware found today both in the Government House building at Quilon and at the Ranga Vilas Palace. The big china jar is unique in size and is rarely equalled anywhere in these parts. The circumference of the mouth of the jar is 3 feet 11 inches. The circumference of the bulging portion is 10 feet 4 inches. There are other articles of chinaware such as flower vases which are worth a study, on account of the age-old painting in colours which are as fresh today as they were when they were executed centuries ago.

We next come to some Kerala vessels of the domestic pattern such as *Kindi, Pidimontha,* laddle etc., which are all made of glass. They are exactly similar to the bell-metal vessels in ordinary use in all houses. It would appear that

His Highness Visakam Tirunal Maharaja (1880-1885) had these made as a matter of curiosity. The glass lamp would arrest the attention of any one—21 inches in height with a circumference, at the bottom, of 24 inches and 21 inches at the lamp portion. Some recent additions of glass articles were presented by His Highness the present Maharaja when he returned from his European tour. There is an assortment of old ivory articles such as paper-cutters, walking sticks, chuckram board, chessmen and chess board, etc., said to be two centuries old. They are noted for their excellent and exquisite carving by deft hands. A magnificent water-colour painting representing the Audience Hall in the Palace of the Sultan of Java is a real work of art—a present again of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal when he returned from his tour to the Netherlands East Indies in 1937.

The Royal Portraits Hall in this Gallery is an imposing sight. The portraits have been painted at different times dating from the illustrious reign of Maharaja Martanda Varma, the maker of Modern Travancore who reigned from 1729 to 1758. Among these are those of Maharani Gouri Parvati Bayi and Swati Tirunal Maharaja, the famous linguist, musician and composer who reigned from 1829-1847. Maharani Gouri Parvati Bayi (1814-1829) is famous for the principle enunciated in 1817 "that the State should defray the entire cost of the education of its people in order that there might be no backwardness in the spread of enlightenment among them, that by diffusion of education they might become better subjects and public servants and that the reputation of the State might be advanced thereby". This portrait is the work of an English artist and is dated 1839. Both western and eastern artists have contributed to this gallery.

An interesting oil painting is that of Dewan Subba Rao who was twice Dewan from 1830 to 1837 and from 1839 to 1842. He was elevated to the charge of the State by His Highness

Swati Tirunal whose Tutor Subba Rao was. This oil painting is a token of the high regard His Highness had for his tutor. It has to be recalled in this connection that Swati Tirunal Maharaja was not only a statesman of the first order, but was also a scholar, musician and composer in more than seven Indian languages, and a well-known patron of painting. The first impetus to painting on modern lines in Travancore was given by His Highness Swati Tirunal (1829-47) who invited to his court one Alagiri Naidu, a native of Madura, considered to be the best painter of the day. It was this Alagiri Naidu who executed, under Royal command, the painting of Dewan Subba Rao, which is even today seen in this gallery. An arresting picture, "Fiery Thoughts," by the well-known painter, Nicholas Roerich is a present by the painter himself. The Royal Armoury is a living illustration of the military exploits of former Rulers of Travancore. The collection includes swords, spears, daggers, rapiers and guns of every type. Most of these weapons have a history of their own in the shaping of Travancore as it is today and are of the Portuguese, Dutch and early English periods. One weapon which attracts considerable attention is the eight feet long rifle used by a Commander-in-Chief of the Travancore Army in the seventeenth century, known in history as "Valia Ejman", who was of a towering and gigantic stature whose exploits are narrated throughout the country with pride. The array of battle-axes displayed in this room is reminiscent of the troublesome days Travancore had in the conquest and consolidation of the minor principalities. There is also in this room a silver spade with ivory handle with which Maharaja Martanda Varma cut the first soil of the well-known Anantha Martanda Varma Victoria Canal from Trivandrum towards the south. Another interesting exhibit is the antique binocular presented in 1870 by the Duke of Edinburgh to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. Here is another interesting exhibit, the Swarabat on

which the great musician and composer Swati Tirunal Maharaja played. This instrument has now become extinct, the last performer being the Kunjar Raja of the Mavelikara Family whose soul-thrilling performances it has been my proud privilege and great honour to have listened to and enjoyed over 53 years ago. It is indeed a pity that no efforts have either been made or are being made to resuscitate this divinely blessed instrument.

Another work of art which arrests one's attention at the top of the stair-case is a wonderfully worked brass chest with a wealth of carving all round. This was used by Swati Tirunal for keeping his valuables.

The Tibetan room is a separate study by itself. The typical Tibetan banners and deities form a very fine collection full of interest for an antiquarian or archaeologist. One curious exhibit is a trumpet 9 ft. 4 inches long, used in the temples. The reliquary kept here is an exquisite piece of art-work.

The Royal robes exhibited here date from the reign of Ayilliam Tirunal Maharaja (1860-1880) and form a resplendent collection and furnish an idea of the evolution of the Royal dress in Travancore. The ivory throne of Karthika Tirunal Maharaja (1758-1798) with a canopy supported by four silver pillars is a masterpiece of ivory carving in the old style of figures.

In the Religious room a few paintings in colours are exhibited which are all drawn on glass. One tall figure of Sri Rama merits attention as it was worshipped by His Highness Swati Tirunal, the musician Maharaja. Sri Krishna seated in his chariot during the battle of Kurukshethra is represented as initiating Arjuna into the teachings of the *Bhagavatgita*. All these are of considerable antiquity. Some bell-metal pieces

representing Anantasayanam (Sri Padmanabha in a lying posture), Vishnu in a sitting posture and Sastha, the mountain-God in wood, covered with silver plates, are all very interesting as specimens of work of the old craftsmen unknown to fame. A cabinet made of camphor wood inlaid with pearls of various forms and sizes, more than 300 years old, is a remarkable curio. Copper plates containing the Proclamations in connection with Tirupadidanam, Temple-entry, & c., are some of the important historical documents which tell their own story.

CHAPTER V.

THE SRI CHITRALAYA

"It was a great pleasure to see this well-arranged picture gallery of Indian Art consisting of copies of old Frescoes, later Frescoes from the temples of Travancore, a few Moghul paintings, a representative series of Rajput pictures and a very well selected collection of the various schools of modern Indian painting".—N. C. METHA, I. C. S.

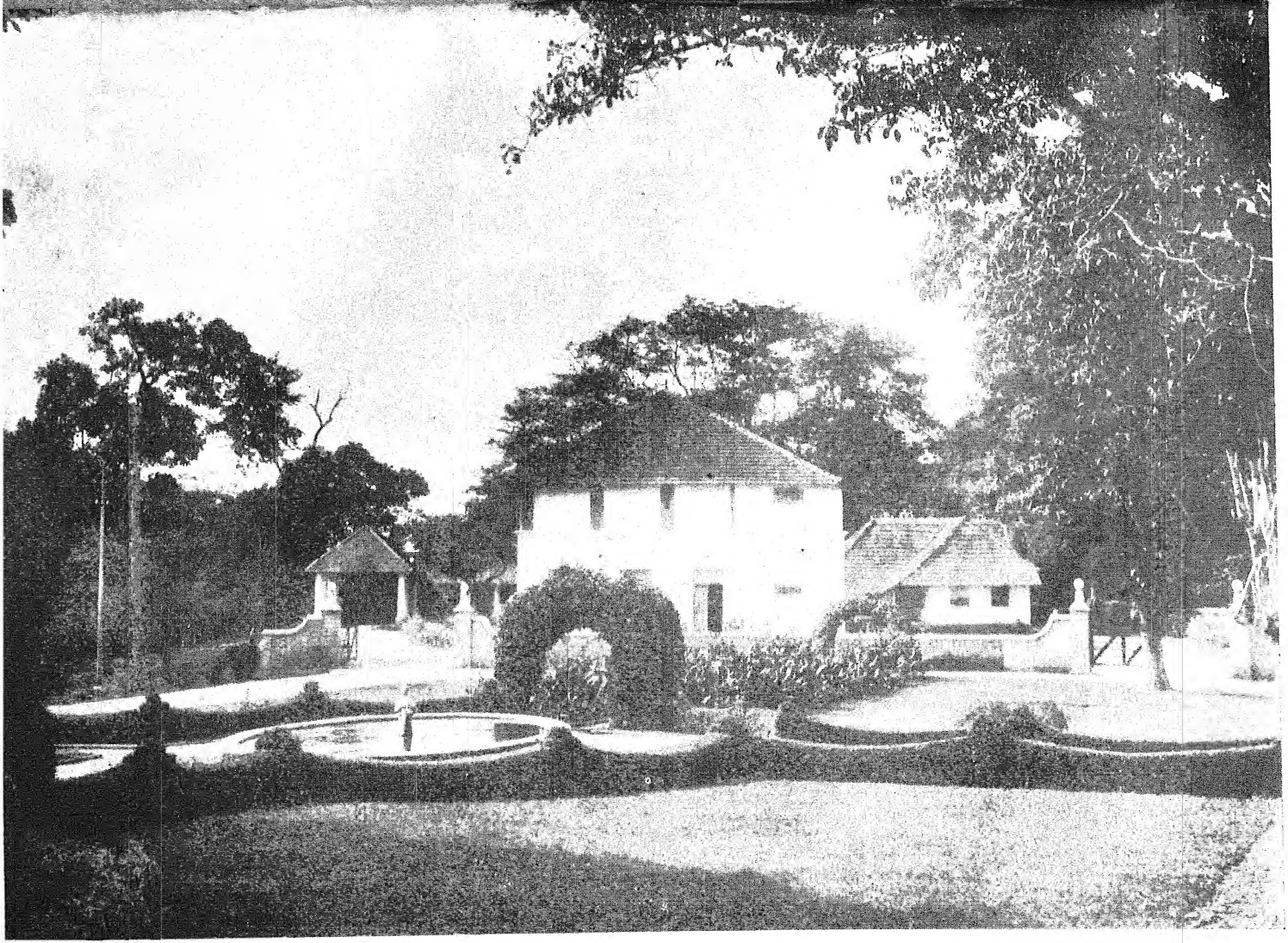
In a previous Chapter a brief survey of the growth of Fine Arts in Travancore was made. It only follows that that history must be amplified and illustrated with reference to the practical action taken to encourage and foster one or other of those arts. The Sri Chitralaya is a standing monument to the finest of the Fine Arts, namely, Painting. The object for which the Government of Travancore founded the above institution under the authority of His Highnes Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja was to provide for the people of Travancore and for visitors out on a holiday enjoyment and education and a sense for the development of artistic taste, a collection of pictures representing the various eras of painting in India along with some indication of the art of painting under the influence of Indian culture. Indian life and Indian scenery.

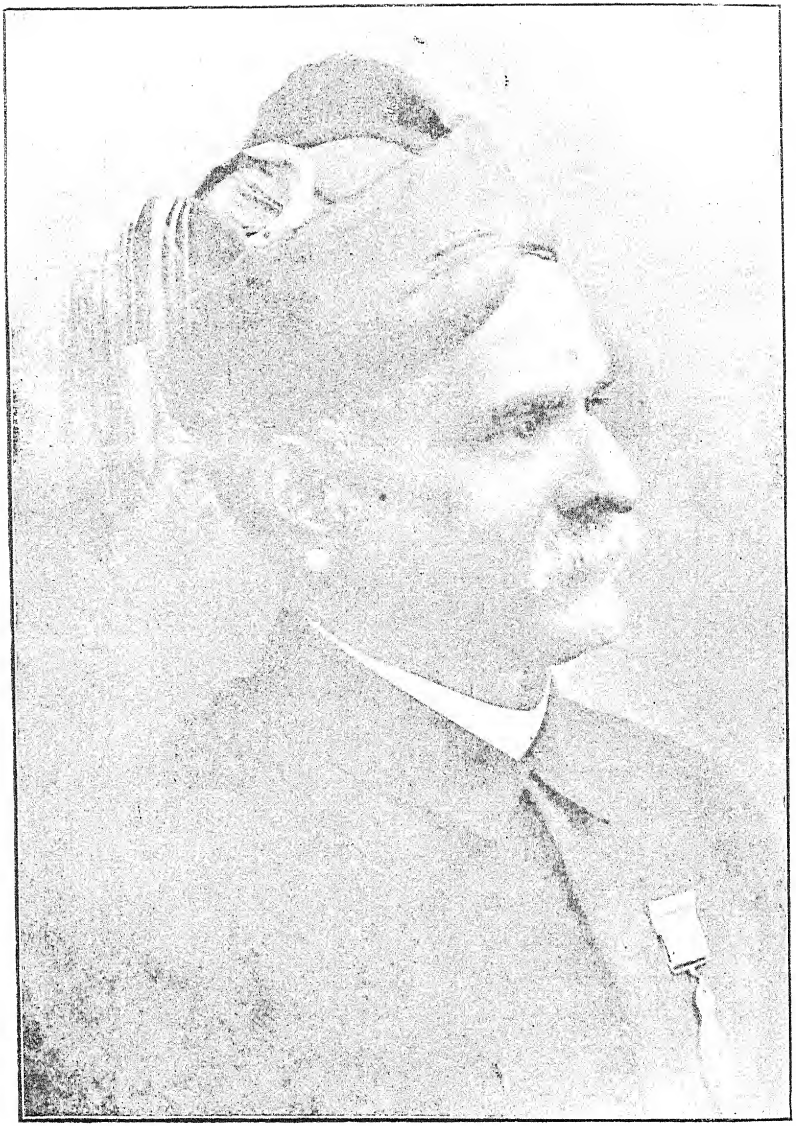
The institution was opened by His Highness on the 25th September, 1935. That would be an ever memorable event in the annals of the State. It was a distinguished assembly including some eminent men from outside the State who were really interested in the promotion of Painting.

In opening the proceedings Dr. Jayaram H. Cousins, the well known artist, poet and scholar, whose services had been

engaged by Government, explained the aims and objects in a speech which is produced *in extenso* as it is a singularly clear statement worthy of careful thought. Dr. Cousins said :—

> "The opening of the Travancore Art Gallery of Indian Painting constitutes an event of singular importance in the history of Indian culture. This importance does not arise out of large buildings and numerous exhibits. Compared with some of the galleries of Europe and America, the Sri Chitralayam is insignificant in bulk. But it can be claimed for it that it presents, more completely than any other gallery of which I am aware, an inclusive view of the pictorial art of India. This view extends from the ancient wall-paintings of Buddhist temple, paintings that were five centuries and more old, when the first of the Renaissance painters of Europe was born, down through the era of the Rajput and Moghul miniatures and of South Indian mural painting, to the revival in the present century of painting in the distinctively Indian style, which revival began forty years ago in Bengal, and has influenced the art of painting, all over the country. Added to this historical survey of the more or less traditional painting in India, in modes and by methods that are readily identifiable and cannot be detailed on this occasion, the Chitralayam contains examples of paintings in western ways by Indian artists, particularly those of the gifted Travancore family of which Raja Ravi Varma became the most widely known member. The gallery thus presents materials for the valuable study of the interactions of racial, temperamental and extraneous methods of expression, a matter of fundamental importance to the coming development of art in education. The gallery also presents, in Chinese and Japanese paintings and prints, suggestions





Raja Ravi Varma

towards the study of India's cultural influence on other areas of the continent of Asia.

To realise something of the true value of art, it is only necessary to ask the question: How much of the expenditure of a country on, for instance, the prevention of crime and the care of the insane, is made necessary by individuals of artistic taste or capacity? The economic fact involved in the answer to that question directly touches national budgets. Every dollar spent in America on the cultivation of sensibility to beauty and artistic order is coming to be generally calculated as much more than a dollar deducted from expenditure on merely controlling the anti-social expressions of ugliness and disorder. Moreover, artistic sensibilty not merely controls ugliness and disorder, but eradicates their psychological causes. It satisfies the creative impulse through the creation of things of beauty and noble usefulness, instead of leaving out that impulse to seek its satisfaction in sensual ways that are needlessly expensive to the individual in pocket and physique, and that compel needless expenditure on the part of those in authority for neutralising the evil social effects of uncontrolled inartistic desires.

What I have said applies to the Chitralaym as a repository of artistic achievement and a means to the development of artistic taste. But that is only one side of the possibility of its high service to the individual and the community. The other side is the stimulation of creative activity, and its fulfilment in the various forms of art according to the natural bent and circumstances of the individual.

It has been said that he who causes two blades of grass to grow where before there was only one, is a

benefactor to the race. But the growing of grass, and all that the phrase symbolises of man's material needs is only one of the essential activities of a whole and healthy being.

"He who feels men serveth few
He serves all who dares be true"

said the wise Emerson. One way of being true, perhaps, the only way, is to find the completeness of life that comes from the expression of one's real inner self, free from the distortions and obscurations of grass-growing self-interest, even of self-less interest. It is no exaggeration to say that the paradoxical condition of humanity in our time, with millions starving in the midst of super-abundance of stuff, is the inevitable outcome of over attention to mere grass-growing, to the mere production of commodities for sale, and under-attention to the problems of meeting human necessity through the exercise of imagination and compassion, through the appreciation of social beauty and the establishing of social order. These things belong to the soul; they are elements of its hunger for expression; they are the high origin of true art. Mankind will only attain true humanity when its vision and its thrill to the universal beauty are expressed in art and in the inclusive art of life; when the principles of art, which are in their essence divine, are applied to the material side of life. That is the meaning of the great saying of Christ that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

Because of these considerations, and others of a like nature that time does not permit me to advance on this occasion, I cannot regard the opening of this gallery of art as something ornamental only, but must offer my

tribute of appreciation to all who have participated in what I believe to be a great act of spiritual statesmanship".

His Highness the Maharaja in declaring the Chitralayam open made the following speech :—

"The function which, it is my privilege to perform this afternoon, is to me a source of intense gratification. It marks the fulfilment of a cherished desire to afford to my people opportunities for that aesthetic education which is one of the prime elements of culture. Painting, with the probable exception of music, has the largest attraction for the majority of persons, with its combined appeal to the sense of form and of colour.

Art galleries are not the creation of a day. They represent centuries of assiduous and patient collection by generations of art lovers.

This gallery is designed to be the nucleus of what may become an epitome of the best examples of Eastern art; and it is my hope that it will stimulate the artistic instincts so abundant in our country, which has never lacked a pictorial tradition.

It is a matter for congratulation that Dr. Cousins, the well known exponent of art and literature, has succeeded in assembling, from many places, this collection of pictures, designed to include the various schools of modern painting in India. He has spared neither effort nor time in equipping this gallery with rare and representative specimens of pictures and colour prints; and I gladly take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him; and I hope that this institution will continue to receive his fostering care.

Some pictures in the possession of my Government have been transferred to the gallery to give completeness to the underlying scheme of arrangement. A fine series of mural paintings has been secured for us, exhibiting the world famous specimens from the Adjanta and Bagh caves. A remarkable group of copies of mural paintings have been procured by the kindness of the Government of Cochin. We are indebted to the Kilimanoor family for having generously handed over to the institution, as a permanent loan, a large number of pictures by the well-kmown Raja Ravi Varma and other members of his talented family.

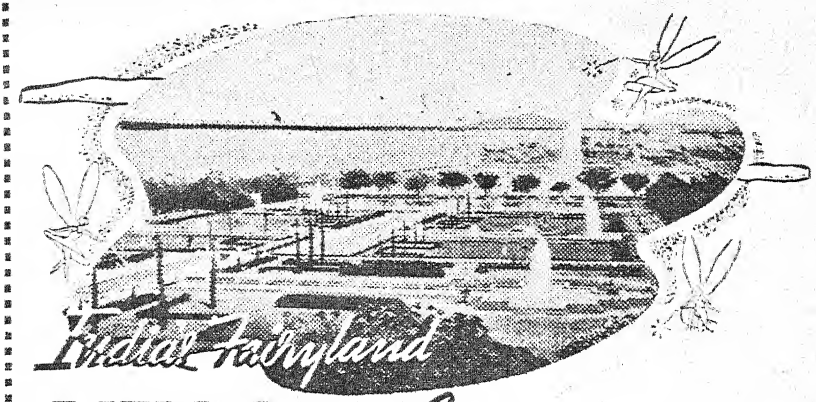
I trust that this picture gallery, with which I have gladly associated my name, will serve as an inspiration to future artists, and provide solace and pleasure to lovers of art, that it will demonstrate to the world that Travancore which has, in the past, helped in the popularisation of the Puranic lore, can make valuable contribution in the future, and that it will make more accessible our splendid mural paintings and frescoes. A word of tribute is due to those master craftsmen of the past whose names are unknown, because in their profound love for their work, they failed to sign their names even on a panel. They laboured patiently and devoutly in order to bequeath to posterity remarkable specimens of mural paintings which evoke our admiration and reverence. Let me hope that Travancore, which, in the Kathakali, has given at least one new art-form to the world, will evolve her own distinctive school of painting.

I have great pleasure in declaring the Sri Chitralayam open. May the blessings of God be showered on all who come to worship in this Temple of Art.

My object in re-producing these two speeches in this account of Sri Chitralayam is to show the wide scope of the institution and also to make my readers understand the enthusiam, earnestness and sincerity of the Royal Founder who has so early in his reign transtated his idea into action, profoundly influenced by his artistic taste and sense and those of his highly cultured and talented mother. Even at the commencement of this laudable institution it received high encomiums from the distinguished authors of "Museums of India" who have recorded their impression that "possibly the best collections are to be found at Trivandrum and Baroda, where they are admirably housed and displayed". Mr. R. Vasudeva Puduval, the Officer in charge of this institution, wrote in his administration report for 1112 that "the gallery, though small at present, is unique in the sweep and arrangement of its collections. The pictures in it are in some respects poems without words or silent poetry crystallising emotions into lovely forms of suggestive thoughts. They are, above all, consolers of loneliness and a relief to the jaded mind. Being the abode of works of joy produced by artists whose imprisoned thoughts have struggled for expression in creative delight, the Sri Chitralayam serves as a loophole of escape to the soul of man, leading it to scenes and figures embodying the joys and griefs of human life, where his fancy for a while may revel and get refreshed and delighted."

The collections which one sees today, at the end of five years of its establishment, would amply justify the description given above. When I visited this veritable house of delight and joy, this treasure chest of a "jaded mind," this "loophole of escape to the soul of man," there were 256 pictures consisting of oil paintings, water colours, crayon drawings, pencil sketches, mural paintings, etc., selected with a high sense of appreciation of the representative character of indigenous painting. These are carefully catalogued with

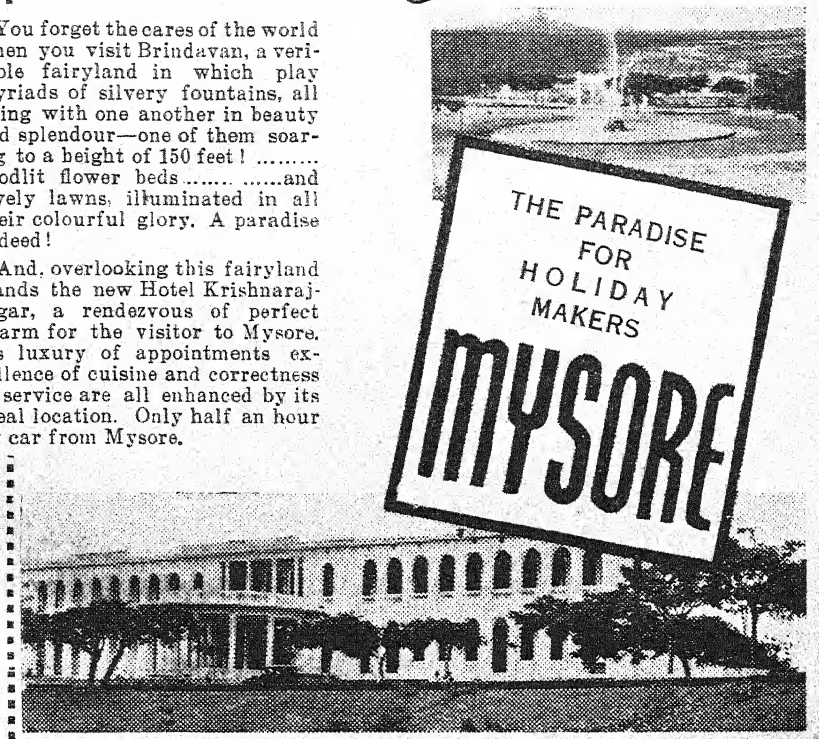
suggestive notes or hints for those interested or inclined for a study of the subject. In addition to these there were about a dozen pictures also exhibited which had not been included in the catalogue. These pictures begin with the pioneers of the modern revival and by some of their most prominent votaries of the art. The list of these painters leads off with the well known name of Abanindranath Tagore, a distinguished member of that talented family, renowned throughout the world for his extensive and varied worth, yet typical of his sincerity and delicacy. There are two pictures by him, "Alone" and "Portrait." The paintings of his brother, Mr, Gogonendranath Tagore, an exquisite artist in many styles, who unfortunately died recently, are represented by 6 pictures each valuable in its own way. Nandalal Bose, now head of the Kalabhavan of the Vishnu Bharati, Santiniketan, who is another of the group of pioneers of the new movement, is shown by four of his works of which the most notable is, "The Home Coming" described as a pictorial jest, suggestion a classical frieze," but planned in the Indian manner of including a succession of incidents in one picture, the subject being the return of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore to Santiniketan from one of his journeys abroad. This picture is notable in preserving portrait sketches of the poet, and his son Rotindranath, and Rev. C. F. Andrews. Another of his pictures is "Chaitanya by the Sea", a fine study in human character, realistic in subject, idealistic in technique. The colour and shimmer of the Oriental sea have rarely been more beautiflly and truly depicted. Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, after winning world fame in poetry, drama, fiction and other literary forms, expressed his surplusage of creature energy in a series of impromptu pictures of which "The "Bird" is a precious example. Deva Prasad Roy Choudhuri, the talented Principal of the Government School of Arts, Madras, and the Sculptor of the statue of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, erected and set up in



MYSORE State

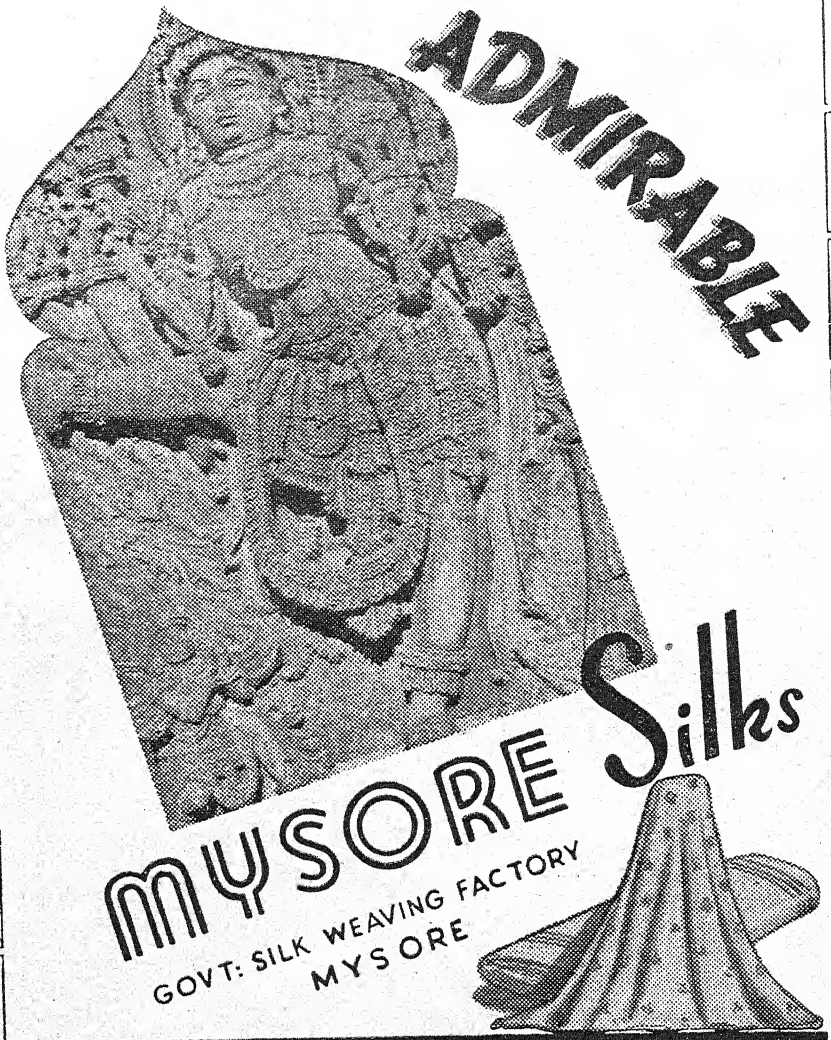
You forget the cares of the world when you visit Brindavan, a veritable fairyland in which play myriads of silvery fountains, all vying with one another in beauty and splendour—one of them soaring to a height of 150 feet! ..... floodlit flower beds ....and lovely lawns, illuminated in all their colourful glory. A paradise indeed!

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Trivandrum, to commermorate the Temple-Entry Proclamation has a picture in this gallery "Homeward Bound," a daily feature of the beach at Madras, painted in both wash and tempera. Promode Kumar Chatterjee, a pupil of Abanindranath Tagore, who was for sometime master of Arts schools in Masulipatam and Baroda, has developed an individual style combining distinctive forms and colours with theological and natural symbolism. This new style is represented in 7 of his pictures. Of these seven "Durga Devi" deserves to be specially noted. It illustrates the story of the destruction of the demon Mahishasura. When the Devas were almost overcome by this enemy who took the form of a buffalo, they invoked the aid of Adi Sakti (primeval energy) who appeared as Durga and killed the demon. Additional interest is centered in this story of the origin of Mysore. There are three paintings by Ukil brothers. The younger members of the Bengal School are represented by nine votaries. The influence of this movement led to the establishment of classes for the study of painting along traditional lines outside the Calcutta School of Arts—at the ancestral home of the Tagore family; later in the Indian Society of Oriental Arts; and in the Kalabhavan founded by Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan, where a younger generation of painters has been trained by Nandalal Bose. There are 15 picturers of this School exhibited in the gallery. A very attractive section is a collection of paintings by five Indian ladies each one of whom has one picture. These paintings depict feminine interests with local distinctiveness in contrasted methods, but always with delicacy and beauty. There are eleven pictures by a miscellaneous band of Indian painters, Schools of Indian painting, working outside Bengal, but inspired by the new movement are represented by 30 pictures. Of these "The Artizan" is by Mr. P. Hariharan, a Travancore artist, who studied in Santiniketan and has won fame in Japan for artistic Ceramic work and is now head of the Cramic industry in Mysore. Mr. K. Madhava Menon, a

Kerala artist of much promise, who has been working independently and has studied under Mr. A. P. Banerji when he was teacher in the National High School, Guindy, Madras, has his work represented by three paintings. Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple, Trivandrum which has leapt into greater fame and has come to be known to a wider circle on account of the Temple Entry Proclamation, by Govindaraja, a Mysore artist, is worth a study.

It is acknowledged everywhere that the most widely known achievement in oil-painting by Indian artists has come from Travancore in the works of Raja Ravi Varma and other members of the Kilimanur family. The Sri Chitralayam will have justified its existence, if not for anything else, at least for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the traditional school of painting of the Kilimanur family whose hereditary talents would have probably been forgotten but for the glow of patriotism of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal whose far-sighted insight, wise statesmanship, innate love of art and fine sense of artistic culture are responsible for the establishment of this excellent institution. The Kilimanur branch of the Royal House of Travancore has produced artists and painters who have brought fame to Travancore. The earliest painter in Travancore appears to have been Rohini Ammathampuran of that gifted family who lived from 967—1024 M. E. (1787—1849) whose sister Kunjikavu Ammathampuran gave birth to Raja Raja Varma (senior) who flourishad from 988—1059 M. E. (1813—1884 A. D.) His sister Uma Devi became mother of three painters, the eldest and the most distinguished of whom was Raja Ravi Varma whose pictures continue to be admired even today by the votaries of the brush in the two hemispheres. He was born at Kilimanur in 1848 and got his first lessons from his uncle, Raja Raja Varma. Later on when an English painter Theodore Jensen, visited Travancore, this budding artist studied for a short time under

this English painter who was surprised at the innate talents of Raja Ravi Varma. When he was 25 years old. he won, for the first time. the Governor's Gold Medal in the Madras Fine Arts Exhibition in 1873 with his picture "Nair Lady's Toilet," which later on secured for him another Gold Medal at Vienna and thus paved the way for his European reputation. The Sri Chitralayam is fortunate in having on its gallery more than 31 pictures of this eminent Indian Artist, honoured and encouraged by the leading Maharajas such as those of Baroda and Mysore, whose Palaces are adorned by the unmatched productions of this Travancorean artist. The reproductions of these paintings are to be seen in almost every home throughout the length and breadth of India. He died in 1907. It is said that in the distinction he gained in the use of the easel he was greatly helped by his sister. Mangala Bai Thampuran who fortunately still lives, having attained five years more than the Palmist's limit of 70. The daily use of the brush is even now her hobby. There are two pictures of hers in the gallery arresting the attention of the visitor, portrait of her brother, Raja Ravi Varma from life and "Charity." Another painter of Kilimanur family who has earned a name and fame is C. Raja Raja Varma, younger brother of the famous Indian Artist. There are 19 of his productions in the gallery comprising a wide variety of subjects such as Secunderabad, a Parsi Lady, Kadinamkulam lake (near Trivandrum), Winnowing Grain, Udaipur Palace, a Mysore Milkmaid, Sri Padmanahha Swami Temple, Trivandrum, Kathiawar Procession, Marwari Girl, etc. In addition to these there are five paintings and sketches by Raja Raja Varma, the most important, that of Maharaja Swati Tirunal (Ivory) for which the country will ever cherish his name with affection and gratitude.

The Roerich Collections.

A display of these collections in the gallery is the attraction of all art-lovers and artists. An exhibition of paintings

by the world-famous painters, Nicholas Roerich and his son Svetoslav Roerich during the Birthday celebrations of His Highness the Maharaja in 1937 revealed such superb achievements of form and colour in the delineation of Nature and humanity in the Himalayas that a group of three paintings by the father and two by the son were acquired by the Chitralayam both as objects of great art for the enjoyment of the people and as examples of consummate skill and beauty for the encouragement of local painters. A second exhibition was given at the Birthday celebration of 1939. From these, a further group of seven was acquired which, together with a loan of a portrait, by Svetoslav Roerich, made up a collection of 13, the new accessions illustrating other phases of the art of Nicholas Roerich than his Himalayan period. The whole constitute a remarkable assemblage of high aspiration expressed in composition and colour that has won the admiration of art lovers all over the world. The 13 pictures in this collection are very interesting from the point of view of the large and rich variety they portray. "The River of Life" (A Himalayan Interpretation), "Shambaila Daik", (Sending a message in Himalayan Winter), "Opening the Gates" (In a Russian Monastery), "Laotzu" (The Chinese sage comes to India), "The Lake of Genessaret" (Christ and His Disciples), "The Snow-maiden", (A spirit of the Himalayas), "Labul" (The Capital of the Tibet) and "Portrait in oils by Svetoslov Roerich (Himalayas, 1939)", Dr. J. H. Cousins, founder of the Sri Chitralayam, 1935, lent by the painter are all masterpieces in the art of painting. The five paintings by the son, namely, "Malana Valley, Punjab", "Where are you going, brother", "A man of Kulu, Punjab", "The Journey" and "The Storm" are equally enthralling.

Rajput, Mughal, Persian and Transitional Painting.

With the coming of the Mughal Emperors to India in the mid-sixteenth century, the art of painting in India entered on

an era of renewed activity after the period of change and quiescence which followed the disappearance of the Buddhist culture from India in the eighth and subsequent centuries. The painters of the Mughal Court found brother artists working under the patronage of Hindu chiefs. Mutual craft-interests drew them together, though in their subject-matter the two schools—now identified as Mughal and Rajput—maintained their traditional characteristics. The Mughal school, was courtly, personal, and with some interest in the aesthetical aspects of nature; the Rajput school was homely, and religious. The two schools worked side by side, producing an enormous quantity of miniature painting of the highest quality, until the disintegration of the Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century. Various artists moved southwards in search of a living, and found patronage under the Rajas of Vizianagaram, Tanjore, Mysore and elsewhere; their peregrinations have yet to be fully traced. While retaining the delicacy of their hereditary craftmanship, they gradually yielded to accidental influences, and produced a transitional art leading, on the one hand, as in Tanjore, towards Europe, and, on the other, in the "Pat" paintings of Bengal—which preserved the eloquent lines of the distant mural era while making a popular appeal for favour—towards the return to traditional methods iu the modern revival.

There are in the gallery 10 Rajput paintings, 9 Mughal paintings, 2 Bengal Pat paintings, 3 Tanjore paintings. There are also 17 other Rajput paintings, chiefly Krishna subjects.

Tibetan Thankas

India is frequently referred to as the Mother of Asian art; and scholars date the beginning of the real history of Asian painting at the time when the various countries came under the influence of Buddhist culture between the first century before Christ and the seventh century after Christ. The main line of movement was from North India to China, Korea,

Japan, with side lines to Central Asia, Tibet and South-eastern Asia and the Asian islands now known as the Netherlands East Indies. Chinese and Japanese painting developed indigenous characteristics from the Indian root. Tibetan painting became Lamaistic and remained theological. A new movement in folk-painting in Bali, with interesting reminders in subjects and methods, of mediaeval painting in India, is represented by examples hunging in the recently opened annexe of the State Museum, as part of the collection of objects of art made by Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Travancore and Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi during their tour of Netherlands East Indies in 1937. In the Museum Annexe will also be found examples of Chinese and Japanese painting formerly hung in the Sri Chitralayam but now forming the beginnings of a gallery of Far Eastern Painting. As these paintings require a word of explanation, I reproduce here what is in the Catalogue (Third Edition) "The Destroyer of Evil". This is a splendid example of the Tibetan banner (Thanka) in brilliant and flawless stone structure, with strong characterization and intricate but never incoherent design. The banner depicts one of the four Guardians of Tibetan theology destroying evil, symbolized in a serpent and a serpent's egg. From Shigatze, the capital of the late Tashi Lama. "Rahula" is another Thanka. According to Buddhist tradition the son of the Buddha became an ascetic like his father. He was bothered in his meditations by intruders, and, on seeking the advice of his father, was told to keep a tiger, which he did From the same school and place as the above. These two Thankas are in locked cases which can be opened on application by those interested in the techinque of painting. There are four other Thankas. Of these three were painted, in tempera on cloth in the seventeenth century; the first two of these three are typical of the southern Tibetan school; the third is typical of the northern schools of whose work examples are now-rare.

Buddhist and Hindu Mural Painting.

Scholars in art-history refer to the mural paintings in the excavatad Buddhist temples and monasteries of Ajanta, in Hyderabad State, as the inspirational and technical source of the painting art of eastern Asia. They point to their eloquent lines, none of which merely enclose a space, but all of which express feeling. These, co-operating with beautiful colours and attractive groupings, produced an art that attained its own perfections thirteen centuries ago.

The so-called Ajanta "caves," 29 in number, were cut into the solid rock as places of retreat for religious study in the heyday of Buddhism in India. The walls were covered with paintings, in tempera, between the first century B. C. and the seventh A. D.

The Ajanta murals depict incidents from the legendary lives of the Bodhisattva who became Gautama Buddha in the fifth century B. C.

After the recession of Buddhism from India from the eighth century onwards, the caves fell out of human ken. In 1819 they were brought to light again, studied and copied, and are now known to art lovers the world over through monographs and reproductions.

A group of half a dozen similar caves was discovered still more recently at Bagh, in Gwalior State, and made known by copies and monographs.

The murals of Ajanta are religious, with social life as incidental; the Bagh frescoes are social, with religion as incidental.

A small Mantapam containing traces of murals in the Ajantan spirit was found a few years ago near Sittanavassal in Pudukotai State in Madras Presidency. Others are being brought to light elsewhere.

Ajanta Murals.

Under this heading there are seven pictures of which six have been preseented to the Sri Chitralayam by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hydrabad in whose Dominions the Caves of Ajanta are situated The copies are by Mr. Syed Ahmed, Curator of Ajanta.

Bagh Murals.

The original superb achievement of Indign mural painting, thirteen or fourteen centuries ago, of which these copies show only a part of one long gallery in a now ruined veranda has now faded almost completely away through exposure to the weather. These true copies, made by Mr. V. R. Chitra from his own tracings and colour-notes, will preserve for future generations the first freshness of line and colour of the original, and incidentally disclose the human types, their dressing, and some of their doings, and also the dignity and purity of the artists of that distant time. There are three pictures under this head.

Kerala Murals.

Art in Kerala, as in the rest of India, has been mainly the expression of religious ideas and sentiments. The temples have been the centre of its origin and growth. Painting and sculpture in particular are found in a highly developed state in most of the important temples and palaces of Travancore and Cochin States.

In the pictorial art of Kerala there are traces of the influence of Buddhist painting that link the art of Kerala with that of Ajanta and Bagh. The earliest relics of wall-painting of this kind that have hitherto been discovered in South-west India are in the cave temple of Thirunandikara in Travancore; they are ascribed to the ninth contury after Christ. The walls of the Padmanabhapuram Palace in Travancore, and of the Mattancherri Palace in Cochin State, are richly

decorated with paintings of a high excellence. These, whatever they may have owed to traditional Buddhist technique, are entirely Hindu in subject; they date from the sixteenth century to the eighteenth. The copied murals of the temples of Travancore belong to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Recently made copies of murals presumed to be of earlier origin will later be added to the gallary.

There is a remarkable power in these murals. Their technique and finish are excellent. Their atmosphere is always that of sanctity; they are eloquent with spiritual instruction.

The makers of these superb wall-pictures were unknown craftsmen who inherited the traditions of their art from generation to generation. Their skill is always remarkable, and sometimes amazing in its deft assurance. The secret of the attractiveness of the murals lies in the vitality of their figures and in the variety of postures and gestures expressing exalted religious life.

There are 22 pictures of Travancore murals exhibited here. "Siva and Parvati with two devotees" represents relies of fresco painting in the cave temple of Thirunantikara presumed to have been painted in the ninth century, and probably marking the cross-over from the Ajanta Buddhist era in mural painting to the succeeding era of Kerala Hindu mural painting. Copies of paintings in Deccan temples showing the historical steps from Ajanta to Kerala will, it is hoped, be shortly added to the gallery. The Padmanabhapuram Palace in South Travancore is a treasure house of mural paintings admired for their technique and freshness. The picture "Hari-Hara" represents Vishnu and Siva as one being: the unity of form and spirit, "Ardhanareswara" shows Siva and Parvati as one being; the unity of masculine and feminine forms and functions. "Krishna playing to the Gopis" is a

masterpiece which is intended to show that he plays so exquisitely that they shower gems on him. Another picture "Chandra" represents Surya and Chandra (sun and moon) which are the two eyes of Mahavishnu. The copies are taken from a large painting of Vishnu as Anantasayana. "Musicians" display only the lower section of a large mural of a Ganapati-puja. "Nataraja," taken from the temple at Ettumanur in North Travancore was once supposed by such authorities as Dr. A. K Coomaraswami as "the oldest known example of Dravidian painting," not later than the sixteenth century, but older ones have been since found.

The following pictures are copies from the walls of Sri Padmanabha Swami temple, Trivandrum "Rajarajeswari" "Manmatha," "Narada" and "Velayudhan" (Subrahmanyam.)

The Fort Palace, Trivandrum, has supplied three pictures, *viz.*. "Siva and Parvati dancing", "Worship" and "Agni Puja."

The following copies of Cochin murals from the Mattancheri Palace have been graciously presented to the Sri Chitralayam by the Cochin Darbar.

The Marriage of Siva and Parvati, (2) Brahma, (3) Siva, (4) Siva, (5) Worshippers and (6) Parvati preparing for her marriage.

If the descriptive portion is considered too long and elaborate, it will, it is believed, show that this excellent institution can claim to be a comprehensive collection thoroughly representative of every school and every class of painting in Asia for which the names of Their Highnesses Sir Sri Bala Rama Varma Maharaja and Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore will long he remembered by the artists and art-lovers in the East.

CHAPTER VI

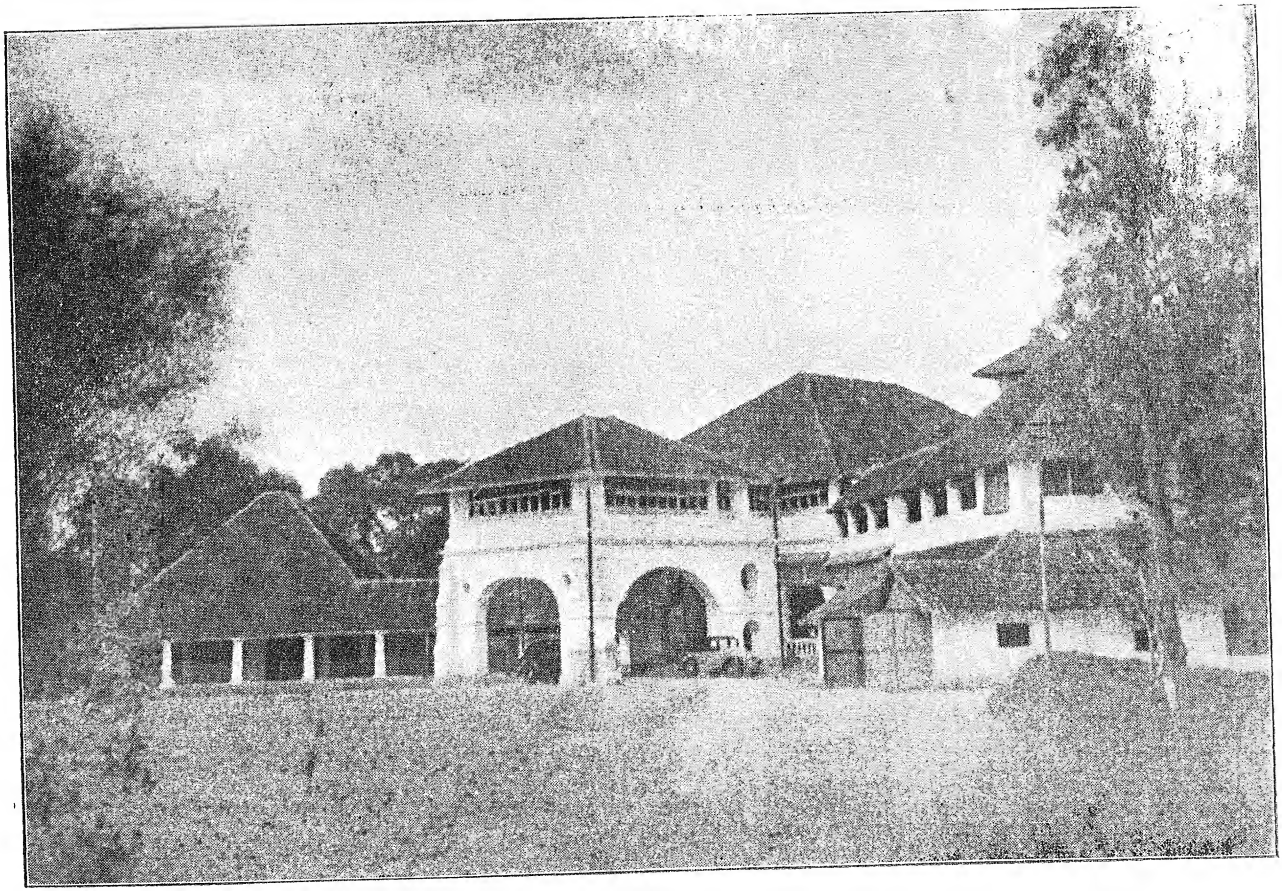
THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

Re-Orientation of the Educational System.

"The foremost duty of this University—a duty, which, in my opinion, transcends its obligations for the intellectual and psychological development of the students—is the well-designed cultivation of a sound and, to the extent possible, of beautiful body". SACHIVOTHAMA SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

In these words was put in a nut shell the primary aim of the University. This youngest University in India seems to take long strides well worth the sturdy growth of a fully developed lad. Though only three years old, the activities of this new, rather the newest, seat of learning, are to be highly commended. It is but another outward expression of the desire of His Highness the Maharaja and his trusted and farseeing Minister, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, to make Travancore an advanced administrative unit in every respect, so that it may take a leading place in India in education as it has done in a few other matters of administrative efficiency. With a literacy of 29 per cent Travancore has ever held its field as the most literate country in India excepting Cochin. This position of distinct advantage, which it has been occupying for the past many years, naturally created in the minds of her people a desire to have a University of its own. This move for a University began over thirty years ago at its old Parliament, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and was repeated every year at its annual Session. The various Dewans could not brush aside the

representation in a light-hearted manner or treat it in a spirit of levity. So effective and articulate was the representation. The subject advanced one step further when, during the Dewanship of Dewan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nair, a Committee was appointed to investigate the subject in all its bearings and submit a report. This was in 1919. After an elaborate examination this Committee unanimously recommended the establishment of a University. Meanwhile the people of British Malabar and Cochin State also joined in the movement and urged the need for a separate University for the whole of Malabar, *i. e.* for the Malayalam-speaking area in the West Coast. A period of five years having elapsed since the Committee's recommendation and some new problems having cropped up, the whole question was further examined by another Committee appointed by the Travancore Government in 1924. Their finding was also for a University of the unitary type. The consencus of opinion was that the University should be for the whole of Malabar, including the two States of Travancore and Cochin. In carrying out this project the co-operation and help of the three Governments of Travancore, Cochin and Madras Government were essential. It was, therefore, necessary that the views of the three Governments should be ascertained in the matter of finance, management and other points connected with the establishment and administration of the University. The snail speed at which the movement proceeded was very discouraging and the people of Travancore became impatient. Each of the three Governments pulled, one against the other, and it seemed hopeless for the materialisation of the idea. It was at this time that His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal was invested with ruling powers. One of the earliest subjects which engaged his attention was reform of the educational system—a system against which there was a vigourous agitation in Travancore for more than thirty years. A Committee was appointed " to



University of Travancore

enquire into the present educational system in the State and advise the Government as to the reforms to be effected in it".

The value and weight of the recommendations of the Committee were considerably enhanced by the fact that it was presided over by such an experienced, competent and eminent educationist as Mr. R. M. Statham, M. A., I. E., S. C. I. E. The Committee made an elaborate survey of the system followed in Travancore for the past several decades. The question was examined in relation to the establishment of a University for Travancore. The opinion recorded was "that the disadvantages of remaining within the Madras University outweigh the advantages and that the future programme of Government with regard to collegiate development should be so framed that it will ultimately become possible to establish a separate University for Travancore." This view received considerable support from a resolution passed by the Madras University Senate in 1921 in which it was stated that there should be at least one University for each linguistic area in the Presidency. The Madras University Act was also passed with this basic idea in mind in favour of the establishment of new Universities at suitable centres. With its ten Colleges of University grade, specialising in the arts and sciences and Oriental Learning and the professional courses of law and teaching and with their strength of over 3,000 students, Travancore had for long held the enviable and pre-eminent position of great importance in South India in the matter of Collegiate education. These considerations naturally received due recognition and weight in the course of the negotiations with the Madras University which rendered every help towards the full fruition of the idea. There was also in the service of the Education Department a distinguished educationist who was Director of Public Instruction, Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan, an eminent Oxonion. The Government, therefore, selected him as ambassador of education to be sent

abroad to study the modern trends in educational ideas and ideals in India with special reference to the working of Universities in India. As Special Officer charged with the organisation of a University for Travancore, he toured outside the State and had to carry on prolonged correspondence and maintain his personal touch with the Madras University and settle several details so as to obtain its whole-hearted support. He then submitted his report which was of considerable help in the attainment of the object in view, namely, a University for Travancore. Even all these preliminary steps would not have been of much practical use but for the fact that an eminent Indian of wide experience, broad outlook, great vision and wise statesmanship had become the Head of the Administration, namely, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who had already rendered disinterested, valuable and lasting service to Indian States. His assumption of charge as Dewan gave a new impetus to the move. When he found that Travancore had decided to have a University of its own, he gave his powerful support and threw his heart and soul into it and offered every encouragement to His Highness the Maharaja who was anxious to launch it as early as possible. It was Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who conceived the idea of a new orientation in education as the objective of the Travancore University. His enthusiasm and earnestness quickened the pace of the movement. During the first year of his Dewanship he worked so zealously and assiduously that the idea took definite shape and the occasion of the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja in 1937 was availed of to convert it into a Birthday boon. A Royal Proclamation was issued on the 1 " of November. This Charter of Education in Travancore bears the indelible impress of the matchless brain and the unbounded spirit of nationalism of its Dewan. Thus was envisaged not only a re-orientation of the educational system but also a practical line of thought in the tapping of the rich industrial resources

of the State. To put it in the words of Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, "Our aim", he said, "is to study the needs of local industries and agriculture, to multiply points of contact between the University research workers and local industries, and to encourage research which may be of practical use in the conservation and development of the resources of the country". This object of the University received the cordial support of the important industrial and planting concerns of the State—European and Indian—as is seen from the fact that substantial sums of money have come from them in the shape of donations to the University.

As stated in the preamble of the University Act, the chief aims of the Travancore University are (1) to effect a reorganisation of the system of education in the State with a view to the gradual development of technical and technological education, (2) to make greater and more systematic provision for the furtherance of original research in the various branches of applied science and (3) to provide for the conservation and promotion of Kerala Art and Culture.

The University of Travancore is primarily a Teaching University established at Trivandrum. Under the Act it has no powers of affiliation. The Colleges maintained by Government have been transferred to the maintenance and control of the University and the four Private Colleges which were already in existence in the State have been admitted to the privileges of the University as a special arrangement under the provisions of the Act.

His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore is the Chancellor of the University, and Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi D. Litt, the cultured Mother of His Highness the Maharaja, is the Pro-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., is at present a part-time Honorary Officer and most of his duties and functions as the principal executive officer of the

University are being discharged by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, a full-time officer appointed by His Highness the Chancellor. The authorities of the University are (1) The Senate, (2) The Syndicate and (3) The Faculties. The Senate consisting of about seventy members is the legislative body of the University and has general superintendence over the affairs, concerns and properties of the University, subject to the ultimate control of Government. In addition to ex-officio members like the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Director of Public Instruction, Deans of Faculities and Principals of Colleges, the Senate includes also representatives of the Registered Graduates, and of the two Houses of Legislature, and a certain number of members nominated by the Chancellor, besides those who have become life-members by making donations to the University. The Senate is re-constituted once in every three years.

The Syndicate consisting of twelve members forms the Executive body of the University. A Board of Finance and Accounts has been constituted to examine the Budget estimate and to advise the Syndicate on financial matters. The Faculties and the Boards of Studies advise the Senate and the Syndicate in all matters of an academic character.

There are eleven Colleges and one Collegiate institution under the University. They are (1) His Highness The Maharaja's College of Science, (2) His Highness The Maharaja's College of Arts, (3) His Highness The Maharaja's Training College, (4) His Highness The Maharaja's Law College, (5) His Highness The Maharaja's College for Women, (6) His Highness The Maharaja's Sanskrit College, (7) His Highness The Maharaja's College of Engineering, (8) His Highness The Maharaja's Institute of Textile Technology. All these institutions are in Trivandrum and are maintained by the University. The following institutions are admitted to the privileges of the University:— (1) The Union Christian College,

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Alwaye, (2) The St. Berchman's College, Changanacherry, (3) The C. M. S. College, Kottayam, and (4) The Scott Christian College, Nagercoil. The strength of the various Colleges during the last academic year (1939-40) was as follows:—

(1) The College of Science, 773 men students of whom 56 were women.
(2) The College of Arts, 370, of whom 41 were women.
(3) The College for Women, 238.
(4) Sanskrit College, 95 of whom 4 were women.
(5) Law College, 146 of whom 3 were women.
(6) Training College, 80 of whom 23 were women.
(7) College of Engineering, 82.
(8) Institute of Textile Technology, 65 of whom 12 were women.

The Intermediate course of study extending over two years forms part of, and leads to, the Degree course. Besides the B. A. and B. Sc., Pass course in various subjects, the University offers Honours and Post-graduate courses in Mathematics, English language and literature, History and Economics, Malayalam and Sanskrit. A Diploma course in Forestry has recently been instituted. The opening of Honours courses in more Science subjects is under consideration.

The Institute of Textile Technology provides technological training to those who intend to take up a career in the Textile trade. It offers a 3-year Diploma course in Textile Technology and Textile Chemistry. The College of Engineering provides Degree, (a five-year course including one year's practical training) and Diploma (a four-year course), in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

All students not living with their parents or guardians are required to live in approved Hostels or Lodgings. The

University maintains three Hostels—two for men and one for women. One of the men's Hostels, the University Students' Hall, run by the Board of Physical Education, seeks to provide board and lodging at a cheap rate to students who cannot afford costly styles of living. The Women's Hostel is situated on the premises of the Women's College. There are also some approved Private Hostels in Trivandrum. The moffusil Colleges provide residential accommodation for a large proportion of their students.

Provision has been made for the medical inspection of students in the Junior Classes.

Physical Education is at present compulsory for the Intermediate course and the Colleges have on their staff qualified Physical Instructors. It is proposed to make Physical Education compulsory for all the students of the University. Athletics in different forms have been provided for in all Colleges and the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Meet maintains a high standard of athletic performance. The University possesses an excellent Stadium. An experienced Instructor has been engaged to teach young men *Surya Namaskar* and the art of wrestling. Arrangements have also been made to give rowing practice to selected students. The University has organised a Labour Corps on the lines of the Training Corps in other Universities. His Highness the Maharaja is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Travancore University Labour Corps and His Highness the Elaya Raja is the Colonel. In the training given emphasis is laid on the use of tools and the students are made to realise the dignity of labour. Instructors from the Travancore State Forces are employed to teach the members military drill.

The Travancore University Union recently inaugurated by The Hon'ble Sir Maurice Gwyer, K. C. B., K. C. S. I., Chief Justice of the Federal Court of India, seeks to promote the

corporate, social and cultural life of the undergraduates. The Union is housed in an excellent and beautiful upstair building near the Museum and close to the Colleges and next door to the Hostel, the Public Library and the School of Arts In declaring the building open, Sir Maurice Gwyer said:— "I confess, speaking as the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, that I am envious indeed of the magnificent building which is to house the Travancore University Union.....An institution of this kind represents in material form the corporate life of the University, or rather, the corporate life of the students of the University. Here is a place where they can meet in happy surroundings; here they can all mingle with other students and accustom themselves to discussions and controversies. Here they can indulge in amusements and recreational activities after their day's work is over; and here they can learn in debate how to put forward persuasively their own arguments and to detect the weak points in the arguments of others. I cannot believe that any University is complete unless it has such a meeting place for its students. And I do congratulate the authorities of the University in their vision and forethought in enabling the University to own such an institution at so early a stage in the University's life".

The promotion of Oriental learning and culture being one of the objects of the University, an Oriental Manuscripts Library was established in 1938 and was amalgamated with the Curator's Department the next year. A separate Pandit, Mr. R. A. Sastri, well experienced in the task of collection of MSS for several States and some Universities in India, for the past 50 years, was engaged to collect rare and valuable MSS. from all parts of India. He has been engaged in this work for the past two years and has secured several rare works which have been appreciated by scholars. The present number of Manuscripts with those in the Curator's Library is 13,000. Ever since its formation under the auspices of the University it has been doing the work of the Publication Branch also, its first publication after it came under the control of the University is *Pasupata Sutra*. This is a rare MSS. of great importance

which was secured for the Travancore University by Mr. R. A. Sastri. It is a valuable treatise on the Saivite cult, which, at the time the work was composed, had a large following in Northern India. It was discovered from a heap of loose and stray leaves in an old house in Benares. Since the inauguration of the Publication Department this was the first book published.

With a view to enriching Malayalam and Tamil literatures by the production of up-to-date books of literary and scientific interest, the University has instituted a Department of Publications. For the present the Department is devoting itself to (a) the preparation of a glossary of scientific and technical terms in Malayalam, (b) the preparation of a standard Malayalam Grammar, comparative and historical, (c) the production of popular books dealing with the various branches of modern knowledge, and (d) the translation or adaptation of foreign classics selected for the purpose. The Tamil section of the Department confines itself for the present to the collection and publication of Tamil manuscripts bearing on Kerala history. Two Committees consisting of eminent scholars have been set up to advise the Department and to supervise its work.

A number of lectures are being arranged every year by the University on the lines of the Extension lectures in other Universities.

The encouragement of research, especially in the various branches of Applied Science, being one of the main objects of the University, several steps were taken for the achievement of this end. Provision has been made in the laws of ths University for the award of Degrees for research work. With a view to afford increased facilities for research in Applied Science, a scheme for the organisation of a Central Research Institute, under the auspices of the University, was sanctioned

by Government. The object of this scheme is to bring under one roof the various activities of the laboratories attached to the different Departments and co-ordinate their work under the auspices of the University. The laboratories working under the Public Health Department, Water Works Section and the research sections of the Departments of Agriculture and Industries were brought under this scheme. In addition to the institutions transferred to the University by Government, the Department of Marine Biology and Fisheries, the Department of Applied Physics, and the Astronomical and Meteorological Departments were also made parts of the Central Research Institute. The Travancore Central Research Institute thus includes the following institutions :—

(1) Applied Chemistry, including Organic, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.

(2) Applied Physics and Mathematics including Astronomy, Meteorology and Statistics.

(3) Applied Biology, including Plant Breeding, Plant Pathology, Mycology and Entomology.

(4) Public Health.

(5) Bio-Chemistry including Agricultural and Industrial Bio-Chemistry and Nutrition Research.

(6) Marine Biology and Fisheries.

The Institute has a magnificent record of work done during the past year. It does credit to Dr. K. L. Moudgill, the Director, who has given a practical turn to the work carried on there. The refining of Light Diesel oil to give a fuel which is used in the buses of the Transport Department is a piece of work which has gone through all the stages, from laboratory experiment to a commercial enterprise. This was taken up at the instance of the Director of the Transport Department and has led to the starting of a distillation plant

in which cruder fuel oil including garage waste oils, are also rectified. The semi-commercial stage not only paid for the entire experimental work and its attendant failures but also left a fair margin of profit. The present stage yields a profit to the University and also enables the Government departments concerned to make a saving on their running stock.

Mesothorium concentrates produced from the Monozite sand of Travancore have given encouraging results as sources of luminous paints and the preparation of these compounds and of Thorium Nitrate and Cerium Nitrate is now being carried on as a project with a view to collecting manufacturing data.

The Industrial Research Laboratory has worked out a formula for the dilution of Sulphuric Acid for use as a coagulent for rubber latex. Immediately after the declaration of war, the price of formic acid and acetic acid which were used as coagulents for rubber latex rose very high. Sulphuric acid had been used in Malaya in the past, but its corrosive nature and its hygroscopic character and, therefore, its changing composition led to its replacement by other more costly coagulents. As a result of the work done in the Industrial Research Laboratory in the Institute, an optimum dilution has been obtained at which this acid is not difficult or dangerous to handle and remains unaltered in the presence of moisture, so that planters can use it according to a prescribed formula which need not be varied. Another piece of interesting work is the manufacture of cocoanut shell charcoal in a small-size pit, which can be managed by a single person. This has been studied and the conditions of charcoaling so standardised that it can be carried on as a cottage industry.

It is well known that paddy is the staple article of food in the State which, however, has to depend on foreign countries for this article of food. The Institute has, therefore, done well to devote its attention to it. The selection of

strains suited for Central Travancore was continued at the Kayankulam Paddy Station. Work on the same lines has been started in an experimental station in Trivandrum wherein the plot has been laid out into blocks so as to make use of the statistical method for this work. The first crop confirmed the results which had been obtained by the Economic Botanist with his variety, T. E. B. 1 in South Travancore. The Entomological side has also been taken up. Cardamoms form a plantation crop in Travancore. How important this spice is from a world point of view will be easily understood when it is stated that Travancore produces 80 per cent of the world supply and the stuff too is superior. Another point worthy of mention is that Travancore has the largest areas in single blocks under this spice. Recently these plants were threatened with an insect pest called "thrips" and, what is more, it has been spreading with alarming rapidity. A Research Station was opened at Pampadampara with the active co-operation of the Murphy Estates, Ltd, in the Cardamom Hills, to study the life history of this pest and to discover its vulnarability to insecticides or some hitherto undiscovered predator. A similar research station is to be opened at Kuttanad to deal with the rice swarming caterpillar. By the side of all this work the Bio-Chemists are carrying on a systematic soil survey of the State which will be brought into line with the new technique which has been drawn up for adoption in British India.

It must be said to the credit of the Public Health Laboratory that it had already made the State independent of outside supplies of small-pox, typhoid and other prophylactic and curative bacterial vaccines. The production of anti-rabic vaccine required for treatment of cases of dog-bite in the State was started last year, and not only has it been found possible to supply the entire demand but a scheme to decentralise the treatment is under the consideration of Government, so that

the cases in the moffusil may secure ready relief near their homes. In other directions also the Laboratory gives assistance such as control of malaria, etc. A scheme for nutrition survey has also been started.

At the suggestion of the Professor of Marine Biology and Fisheries a number of legislative measures, designed to conserve and improve the fishery resources of the State have been submitted to Government. The Department has put on the market the liver oil of shark caught along the coast under the trade name, "Shaliverol". Pamphlets containing specific instructions for the preservation of nets have been distributed free of cost among the fishermen. The Cold Storage which was transferred to the control of the University is now run on a commercial scale. Sea-fish is first frozen and then transported to distant places in the State and in the Madras Presidency in insulated baskets devised by the Department of Marine Biology and Fisheries and made from local materials. The Marine Biological Laboratory and Aquarium has been completed and is being used. It is said to be the largest Aquarium in Asia.

Work on the Applied Physics Laboratory has been started and plans for the Applied Chemistry Laboratory are under consideration.

A new gas plant and gas house has been constructed to supply oil gas to the various laboratories. A central reference library is being organised for the use of the various sections of the Research Institute. The University has instituted a number of Fellowships and Research Scholarships for the promotion of research work; some of the endowments received have also been ear-marked for the purpose. Various scientific problems which have a direct bearing on the economic life of the country are being investigated, such as the improvement of the quality of common salt manufactured in Travancore,

research on the active principles of indigenous drugs, Travancore Fish Oils, the Fisheries of Travancore, the destruction of mosquito larvae by a type of indigenous fish *Aplochilus* Vitamin of deficiency diseases and the retting of cocoanut husks.

On the financial side it has to be said that the University is supported by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja and the main source of income is the contribution from Government. Other sources of revenue are the fees paid by the students and the interest on endowments. The donations received up-to-date amount to Rupees. four lakhs.

That the University has been recognised by other competant bodies is evident from the fact that the Government of India have already recognised the Degrees and Examinations of the Travancore University for purposes of admission to the various competitive examinations conducted under their authority. The University is a Member of the Inter-University Board, India, composed of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of India and Burma.

It was a right move on the part of the Travancore University authorities to have induced this Board, to hold its Sixteenth Session at Trivandrum. This Session was held on the 15th and 16th January, 1941. All the Indian Universities sent their representatives with the exception of the Universities of Bombay and Delhi. The Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay Uuiversity was unable to be present owing to indisposition. Among those present, special mention may be made of Dr. Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Sir Muhammed Usman, Sir K. V. Reddi, Rajyakaryapravina Mr. N. S. Subba Rao and Khan Bahadur Afzl Hussain. Mr. John Sargent, Educational Commissioner, represented the Government of India. The meeting was held in the Syndicate room of the Travancore University buildings and the proceedings commenced with a message from His Highness the Maharaja, who extended a cordial welcome to the

members and wished them a pleasant and profitable sojourn. His Highness expressed the hope that, by sustained and co-ordinated effort, the Indian Universities would be able to make their distinctive contribution to national progress and culture. Sachivothama Dr. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore and Vice-Chancellor of the Travancore University, after reading His Highness' message, spoke a few words of welcome. He suggested that the Indian Universities would do well to avoid duplication and to concentrate and specialise on branches of study suited to their resources and their local conditions. Dr. A. C. Sen Gupta, Chairman of the Board this year, congratulated Sachivothama Dr. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar on the signal distinction of K. C. S. I. conferred on him and observed that it was an honour to the cause of University education in India. The Chairman then made a few remarks in reply to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in the course of which he spoke about the ideals of Indian Universities and said that, in the matter of medium of instruction in Universities, every one was agreed that it should be the mother tongue of the candidates and added that it largely depended on the wider problem of re-distribution of the country on a language basis. The agenda was taken up. Many matters, great and small, were considered and reference is made in the following account only to the outstanding topics of discussion.

The question of a suitable machinery for conducting Inter-University tournaments was discussed and it was finally decided to divide India into four Zones and to create an Inter-University Sports Board consisting of one representative from each of the zones. It was also agreed that the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Travancore University would represent the Southern Zone comprising the Universities of Madras, Andhra, Mysore, Annamalai and Travancore. A uniform scheme for the Matriculation or the Entrance Examinations of all the

Indian Universities was drawn up and it was decided to circulate it to the Universities for opinion. It was agreed that the Educational Commissioner of the Government of India might prepare a memorandum showing in what ways Universities can promote the study of social science in a practical form and provide opportunities to their undergraduates for social service. The expansion of the University Training Corps and the recruitment of officers of University Training Corps as officers of the Indian Army, were recommended to the Government of India. On the representation of the Travancore University, it was decided that corresponding examinations and degrees of different Universities should be mutually recognised for purposes of admission. Regarding the question of fixing a minimum age for admission to University courses of study, the resolution passed at the Allahabad meeting that no age limit need be fixed, was reaffirmed. A long and interesting discussion took place regarding the question of bifurcation of secondary education into (a) Vocational and (b) Pre-University Courses, with special reference to the scheme sanctioned by the Madras Government. While the Board did not approve of the compulsory and coercive features of the scheme, they were whole-heartedly in favour of diversifying secondary education by the provision of suitable vocational courses and they recommended also the provision of higher University courses of a vocational character for those who had taken up vocational subjects in their secondary course. Other matters considered included educational broadcasts, the Government of India's scheme for the training of skilled artisans and economic investigation of rural and urban areas with the help of University students during holidays. The question of the ways and means to deal with strikes in educational institutions elicited a very interesting discussion in which, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who happened to be present on the occasion, also participated. The election of three

members of the Inter-University Board to the Central Advisory Board of Education in the place of the three members whose term expires in September, 1941, was then taken up and Dr C. R. Reddi (Andhra), Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan (Travancore) and Khan Bahadur Afzl Husain (The Punjab) were unanimously elected. After some discussion, the Board accepted the invitation of the Annamalai University for holding its next meeting. After the approval of the budget for 1941 and the appointment of auditors, the Session came to a close. The members of the Board were given an opportunity, which they heartily welcomed, of witnessing the parade of the Travancore University Labour Corps. They were considerably impressed by the smartness and efficiency of the Corps and the combined military and labour service which the training provides. The social functions in connection with the Trivandrum Session included a dinner at the Kanakakunnu Palace, given by His Highness the Maharaja, at which members of the Board had the privilege of witnessing Gopinath's dances, a University garden party and a dinner at the Bhaktivilas given by the Dewan, when there was a special music performance by experts of South India. The Ranga Vilas Palace Art Gallery, the Sri Chitralayam, the Aquarium, the Science College and the Engineering College were visited by the members of the Board. On the 17th instant, the members were taken on an excursion to the Cape and they saw on the way the Martandam Rural Demonstration Centre and the Padmanabhapuram Palace with its remarkable frescoes. The party returned to Trivandrum the same evening. Sir. S. Radhakrishnan presided over the Arts College Day celebrations during his stay here, Dr. C. R. Reddi presided over the Training College Day and Mr. Amarnath Jha addressed the Travancore University Union.

CHAPTER VII

THE GOVERNMENT GARDENS, THE ZOO, AND THE MUSEUM.

A Magnificent Institution for Sight-seeing and Instruction.

"It is hoped that in process of time the Gardens will reach such a state of perfection as not only to rival the famous Gardens in other parts of India, but also to remain a constant evidence of that regard for the general interests of his own subjects, no less of the British Residentsin his Dominions, that has always been evinced by His Highness the Maharaja and by the Government of Travancore".—MAJOR DAVIDSON.

These were the prophetic words uttered years ago by Major Davidson who had charge of the Gardens and was one of the enthusiaistic Superintendents to whom the institution owed much in its early days. How these words have been admirably fulfilled to the very letter any one today can easily satisfy himself by a visit. Apart from this fact, Travancore has, even from the comparative early days of British conquest and occupation, been a progressive State and possessed an all-round administration. It was this fact which a former Dewan had in his mind when he remarked in one of his official utterances that "Circles, though small, are yet complete", referring, no doubt, to the area of the State and the remarkable progress it has made, when compared to other States in India. At a time like the Indian Mutiny of 1857 when Northern India was being torn to pieces and when the fate of Indian States was trembling in the balance, Travancore was in the enjoyment of perfect peace and was proceeding with its enlightened and

progressive spirit of administration. For, the establishment of this Museum synchronised with the tumultous days of the Great Indian Mutiny. Travancore could, in those days, claim an enlightened and civilised administration under a Maharaja of progressive views. This Museum owe sits inception to the then Uttram Tirunal Maharaja Martanda Varma (1847—1860) who appreciated the value of science in the economy of life.

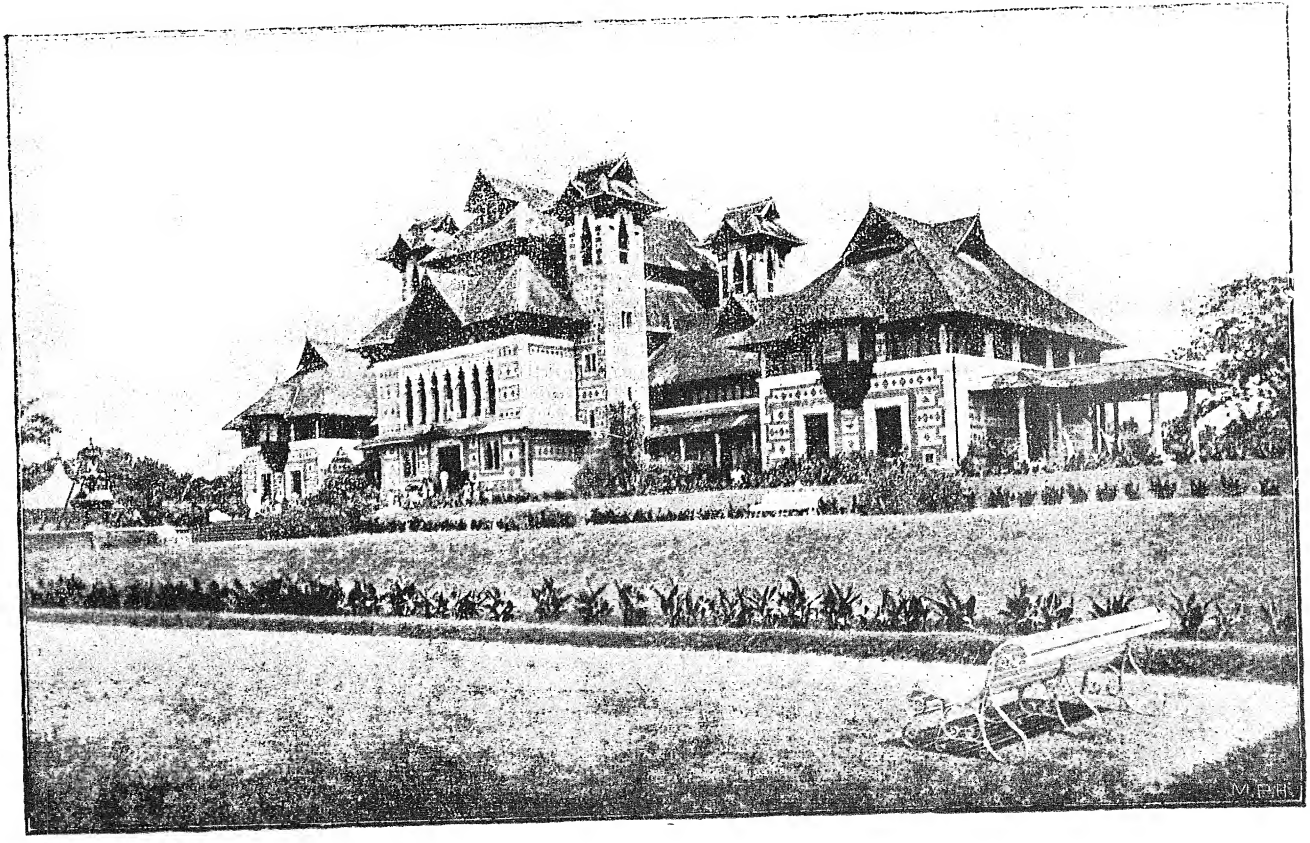
No special plea is necessary to recommend to the visitor to Trivandrum, this magnificent institution which, with its Park and the Zoo, is one of the most popular institutions in this State and undoubtedly the chief show in the capital city. Visitors from far and near, rich or poor, high or low, educated or uneducated, flock to it in large numbers, practically all the year round, both for recreation and instruction. It has become a centre of attraction for local citizens—men and women—who are seen every day in the parks, gardens, lawns etc., to enjoy pure air. On certain occasions of festivals the number of visitors has gone up to even five digits of 40,000. Distinguished visitors, including the Gubernatorial Guests of the State, have not omitted to go round this splendid institution and record their valuable impressions of admiration and appreciation. These expressions of unstinted praise are due no less to the beauty that spreads out in the magnificent "Book of Nature" than to the distinguished horticulturists who have spent years of artistic labours and have successfully painted "the Golden Lily."

No amount of sufficient meed of praise can be given to those who have been responsible for the selection of the present site which is about 56 acres of beautiful and undulating grounds with luxuriant vegetation. The whole area has been well laid out into paths and terraces, lawns and lakes, shrubberies, rockeries, flower beds and conservatories, interspersed with cages and runs for birds and animals which are wisely planned. From the lowest level at the

lakes the ground rises tier on tier up to a level of 100 feet and presents to the visitor an extensive and magnificent terrace in the centre of which stands the artistic Museum building. What arrests one is the architectural beauty of this building with its gable-roof in several portions. Its precincts are maintained as an ornamental garden cut up into stately and lovely lawns and beautiful beds, surrounded by a circular drive which would strike any one as attractive. This is 'The Top Garden', the remaining portion of the whole area forming the Park proper and the Zoo. The Band Stand is quite original in shape and is centrally situated. The premises all round provide comfortable accommodation for the hundreds of visitors who attend on Band evenings. It is in the form of a *Koothambalam* in a Hindu Temple where entertainments like *Chakkiarkoothu* are held during temple festivals for the enjoyment of the masses of the people. It is an wooden structure, octoganal in shape, with granite flooring nicely polished. The whole structure is a fine example of Travancore sculpture. The Band of the Travancore State Forces regale the public every week with their sweet music. These entertainments are generally crowded. Just a few yards from this Stand is the Museum Library where rare and valuable books on Science are housed and are largely used for purposes of reference. The road-system inside the Gardens is beautifully planned and these roads are lined on either side by avenues of suitable trees. There is a total length of three miles of these roads. The two gates are designed from an architectural stand point and command a wide panorama of views which are highly refreshing to the eye. Long flights of steps of easy and convenient gradient and grassy slopes leading down to the lakes tell you that you are descending to 'The Bottom Garden' and you do not feel tired either in going up or down because of the excellent lay-out of the whole Garden. The name 'People's' Park is highly appropriate for the reason that it is absolutely

free for the people to enjoy and derive instruction from without any kind of restriction placed on it. Nor is any fee imposed as is the case with certain institutions in other parts of India or elsewhere. From the very commencement of the institution over 80 years ago the Government have been incurring the whole expenditure.

As stated above, it was in the year of the Great Indian Mutiny that the Napier Museum, named after a former Governor of Madras, was established at the suggestion of Mr. J. A. Broun, who was then Director of His Highness the Maharaja's Observatory, during the reign of His Highness Bhagyodayam Uttrom Tirunal Maharaja (1847—1860), whose great interest in Western Science, particularly Medical Science, is evidenced from the fact that he got made, under his personal guidance and instruction, an ivory skeleton of the physiological outline of man to enable him to study physiology. It is an excellent and original combination of art and science which even now can be seen in the Museum. Along with this unique present of His Highness the Maharaja he agreed to have his private menagerie also transferred to the newly started Museum. The first set of exhibits comprised a collection of Travancore rocks supplied by General Cullen, the British Resident. The management vested in a body called Museum Society which was organised with His Highness the Maharaja as Patron, the British Resident as President and Mr. Broun as Secretary. No better trio could have been obtained for the Museum. The object as set forth in the official papers was to provide instruction and afford encouragement in the pursuit of arts and crafts by the exhibition of specimens of Natural History and products of industry both of Travancore and outside. The nucleus of the institution was thus started with some books and specimens of minerals which the President presented. It was round this Museum that later appendages in the shape of a Park were added,



The Museum

along with a Zoo. In a few years the small Museum developed into the trio institution that it is today with the three branches each gaining strength from day to day.

At the outset it may be of interest to state that the institution owes its present position to the enthusiastic and scientific interest evinced by many European officers of the old Nair Brigade from which were drawn as many as five of the Secretaries to the Museum Committee. The Maharajas and British Residents continued to take the same interest. In 1865 when Mr. Brown retired. he was succeeded by Captain H. Drury at whose instance the collection of exhibits preserved in the Palace were removed to a large hall in the newly constructed Public Office buildings. The present building was then constructed on the design and plan furnished by Mr. Chisholm, the Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras. The building was completed in 1880 when it was thrown open to the public. From then the institution began to grow in its scope and utility which was greatly appreciated by the public and the institution was recognised as a great source of public instruction as well as recreation. It was considered a potent factor in the popular and practical education of mass mind, more powerful than schools. Col. Ketchen, the commandant of the Nair Brigade, was appointed Honorary Secretary and he immediately took steps to organise the staff with a view to make the institution more attractive. He remained as Honorary Secretary for 11 years. He was succeeded by Rev. Pettigrew of the Church Mission Society who was largely responsible for 'The Top Garden'. After a brief tenure of office he was succeeded by Captain Harold Ferguson F. L. S. who has filled several roles in Travancore. First he was a planter and later on joined the Travancore Nair Brigade as a Wing Officer. He was next Tutor to His Highness, Prince, Aswati Tirunal, the first graduate among the Ruling Order in India. The College

students of those days can never fail to remember his interest in the welfare of the students and for his valuable services in coaching them for the dramatic representation of Shakespear's Plays and for his histrionic talents which he exhibited whenever the Europeans of those days put on boards dramatic entertainments. For more than a dozen years he managed the trio institution with singular success and re-constructed the whole, first as Secretary to the Committee and then as its full-time Director. He was later on appointed as Superintendent of the Government Press. He retired in 1903 and was succeeded in the Museum and Gardens by Liet Col. F. W. Dawson, who was also in charge of the Nair Brigade. During the time of Mr. Ferguson and Col. Dawson as Directors they were greatly helped by Mr. F. J. Ingleby who had considerable experience of Gardening in London. It was to his natural instinct and intuitive powers as a first-rate Gardener that we owe the present condition, especially of the lower or 'Bottom Garden', which was divided into splendid terraces of outstanding beauty. It was Mr. Ingleby who pioneered gardening in Travancore by the manner in which he laid out the Gardens in the Museum grounds.

The 'Zoo' is the most popular of the three sections. As stated at the commencement of this Chapter it began to develop and multiply from the small managerie of His Highness Bhagyodayam Uttrom Tirunal Maharaja which consisted of important animals like tigers. It is of interest both to adults and children and has, therefore, the largest number of visitors. The collection is mainly representative of the fauna of Travancore. Lions and leopards breed and thrive very well. The collection which in 1868 consisted of two marabous, two Arabian Sheep and a few monkeys, now numbers 632 specimens of reptiles, birds and mammels. The Zoo has for a long time held its prominent place amongst the best Zoological gardens in India. Modern methods of housing animals in

captivity as followed in Whipsnade, Hamburg and other well known Zoological gardens in Europe are being adopted here. Large open grounds have been laid out for major carnivorous like tigers and lions which are an innovation recently introduced after the model of the best of its kind in India. In the extensive paddocks and runs are the Giraffe, Zebras, Gazelle, Spotted Dear, Fallow Dear and flightless birds like the Emu, and Cassowary and many other African, Australian and native species, Several small and large aviaries house a respectable collection of birds. In the Lakes can be seen the different species of aquatic and semi-aquatic birds. Several species of Bears and Hyaenas are kept in the Zoo. It is well worthy of note that this is one of the few Zoos in India where Black Panthers, rare specimens, are bred successfully. There is a separate mammal house where Civets Squirrels and Rabbits and the smaller members of the class are housed. There is also a reptiliary where poisonous and non-poisonous reptiles of Travancore are kept. An important event of last year was the purchase of a pair of White Fallow Deer, two Macaws (big Parrots), a pair of Hyaenas as well as several varieties of Monkeys. All these form an attractive feature and draw large numbers of visitors every day. Mention may here be made of two Nilgiri Langur having been born in the institution. This is a very important event in the Zoo especially in view of the fact that Langurs rarely breed in captivity. There is also now in the Zoo a regular herd of out of the pair of Black Ducks introduced a few years ago. Attempts are being made to secure a high rate of breeding and hatching White Pea Fowl Chicks were actually hatched, but they did not survive beyond a few weeks. Attention has also been given to the study of acclimatisation. The total number of live-stock at the close of the year (1115 M. E. (1939—40) was 597 as against 490 in the year previous.

The Museum section is always popular. From the time its scope was defined by Captain Ferguson the then Director and accepted by Government, namely, that its exhibits should be indigenous, successive Directors have given prominent attention to this point so that it may do good as an educator of the public. Rigourous efforts were made to confine its collection to the illustration of local Natural history and local arts and also to the manners and customs of the people. Every thing extraneous, and not having immediate reference to Travancore, was removed and at the same time the show cases were replenished with various articles from the different parts of Travancore. The classification and arrangement of the galleries especialy under Natural section were carried out after the lines adopted in the British Museum by and under the direct supervision of Mr H. S. Ferguson who went out to England to study the methods obtaining in the Museums in that Metropolitan of the world.

The Museum consists of a main Central Hall joined by two wings to two other rooms parllel to the central hall. The Museum building contains the galleries for Arts and Industrials and Natural History and Archaeology, while Ethnology and Geology are represented in the Library Hall. The Show cases were recently arranged by Dr. J. H. Cousins. The central Hall, devoted for display of arts and crafts now affords the visitors a sense of space, which was lacking formerly. A bronze image of Vishnu in the attitude of blessing, one of the best of its kind in India, surmounted on a triple wooden pedestal with stone images of Nagar on either side meets the eye of the visitor, as he stands between the image of Buddha Yogasana and Agasthya Maharishi on suitable pedestals flanking the main entrance to the Museum. Ivory and Kuftgari works, ornaments worn generally worn by Indian women, bell metal were, musical instruments and cocoanut industry are all represented in this section, so as to give the

visitor an idea of the arts and crafts of Travancore. The model of a typical aristocratic Nair house, with its miniature models representing the domestic and social life of the Hindu is a source of attraction especially to those outside the State.

The hall on either side of the building with the corridors connecting them to the central hall constitutes the Natural History Section. Along the centre of the wings is arranged a long row of 'Index Cases' with diagrams, explanatory labels and anatomical displays of the Animal Kingdom in the evolutionery order. The wall cases contain specimens representative of almost all species of Travancore fauna, many of them set up by the best men in England. The unicellular animals forming the groundwork in the ladder of evolution are exhibited by means of enlarged glass models. The common enemies of man, the mosquito, the housefly. the bed bug, the flea and the louse, are shown by means of enlarged diagrams or models and along with these, adaptive coloration, insect mimicry and silk worm culture find a place in the Entomological Section. The Botanical Section has over a thousand herbarium specimens in addition to samples of all kinds of timber available in the State and important economic products. Apart from these in the exibition galleries, duplicate specimens are stored in the Museum to be made available on requisition to the scientific enquirer.

The Ethnological section has some interesting models of hill tribes in the State and these are true to life. These suggest to the scientific student on the subject a fruitful field for enquiry and research especially in view of the fact that already there have been inroads into these regions of aboriginal life which threaten the vestiges of these people who are on the high road to modernity in their customs and manners, The Travancore Government have taken note of this tendency and have published under their authority two volumes on Travancore Castes and Tribes.

But the most attractive and instructive collection from a cultural point of view is a series of objects of Art presented by Their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi from Java and Bali when they returned from their tour to the Netherlands East Indies in 1937. These include a large and comprehensive list of articles which are valuable to students of antiquity. The various head-dresses and personal accoutrements used in dances and other forms of dramatic entertainments of old but still preserved form an absorbing topic of study from the point of view of folk song and folk-dance and other allied subjects. There are also 13 Balinese modern paintings representing various scenes from the Hindu epichs of Ramayana and Mahabharata and also present-day works by field labourers, dances of different kinds, agriculture, religious life and other aspects of interest.

It may be stated without one word of exaggeration that the Trivandrum Museum is a veritable treasure-house for every one according to his taste and cultural inclination.

CHAPTER VIII

WILD LIFE IN TRAVANCORE

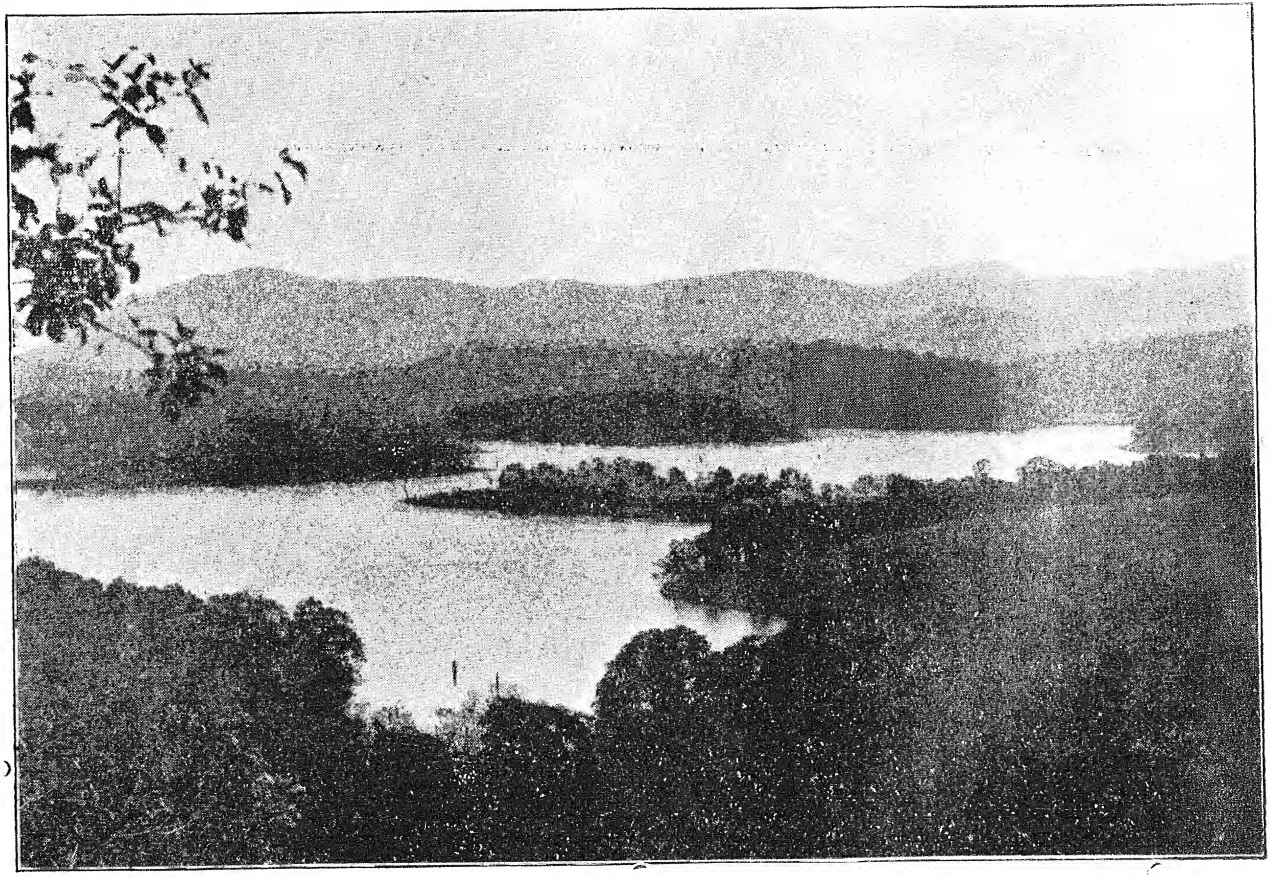
Formation of a National Park.

"A man will not suffer his flocks and his herds, his fowls and his pigeons to be raided and destroyed. There is greater reason to safeguard and protect the wild animals and birds, for his cattle and sheep he can replace, but Wild Life once gone can never be replaced".—ANON.

"He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast,
He prayeth best who loveth best,
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all".—*Coleridge.*

We have here the essence of those Divine Commandments which have been accepted by man. All human beings endowed with the slightest spark of that Divine quality, mercy, would also very much like to carry out in daily life this golden rule of moral conduct. But the brute in man is difficult to repress. Hence it is that the feeling of selfishness in man is uppermost and all kinds of laws—penal, municipal and special legislation —are enacted whose final objective is the preservation and protection of man who, it would seem, has entirely neglected Animal Life for whose creation also the same God is responsible. It is generally conceded that all the world over, the Wild Life on the land is the property of the owner of the land and his is the responsibilty to maintain the Wild Life also in tact to the same extent he feels for his human brother or sister. He cannot say that it is his will to do what he likes with it for the simple reason that the same Creator who

brought into existence human beings also created the Wild Life. Therefore, to persecute or otherwise torture any member of Wild Life deliberately or wantonly is clear violation of Divine Law. The easiest excuse urged is that wild animals are dangerous to man, his cattle and other earthly belongings such as his crops and cultivation generally. It cannot be denied that sometimes valuable produce is destroyed and that on account of periodical increase of population of some form of Wild Life even certain villages are raized to the ground. Though this is apparently sufficient reason for the display of the brutish tendency in man, it does not occur that such destruction could be saved if man would adopt some kind of protective measures like a moat all round or other equally effective step, so that life equally dear and valuable may be saved. For, has not man made provision or safeguard against the onslaughts of his own brother or sister? But a more serious form of cruelty inflicted on Wild Life is due to the unfortunate fact that some of these creations of God possess bright plumage, soft fur, bright skins and such other attractions which those sportively inclined or those who are after mammon cannot resist. There are others whose gastronomic tendencies are responsible for going after some of these Wild Life which are noted for their succulent meat. There is quite another set of people who consider that these forms of Wild Life are created for their recreation. To any one who is seriously thinking of life and its problems, all this must appear as inexcusable crime which, though it may not be adjudged by human laws, will have to be accounted for in the eyes of the Creator. What every one has to realise and act upon in his own experience is that human pleasure need not necessarily depend on the painful torture inflicted on animals, nor on their killing. In other words, sport, when it has to be indulged in, must be humanised. Forests should be treated as recruiting grounds for the Zoos, the enrichment of Public Parks, Gardens



Thekkadi Lake

and other recreational places of resort. These should be preserved and maintained for amusements and instruction and not used as infernal carnage. The present age is for producing sensations or thrills and establish records either in the number of animals bagged or in exactitude in hunting, say, in shooting at the edge of the ear or nose or at the point of the tail This insensate desire in sportsmen should be strongly deprecated. It is not an uncommon sight to find sometimes certain Europeans —distinguished civilians or reputed members of the Army Department—taking leave and preparing themselves for this killing job after getting special permission from the administration of the area where they want to kill. Some times these hunters have to pay a heavy amount in the shape of license fee. It is at the expense of such valuable time and money that these sportsmen set about their business.

Of late there has been in recent years in many countries an awakening of public conscience as to the urgent need of adequately protecting Wild Life in all its aspects. It has been felt in an ever increasing measure in countries where there has been plenty of beautiful wild life that all those places full or different kinds of game, have been reduced to utter poverty and scarcity owing to the inhuman activities of man. Indiscriminate killig of four-footed and feathered game has relatively increased the number of pests which are a great menace to agriculturists and are doing considerable harm to crops and orchards. It has been stated that game preservation has been entrusted to the Forest Department which has passed regulations and rules to preserve game in the Reserved Forests. But it is forgotten that the Forest Department cannot always see eye to eye with the delicate problems of Natural History and with the aims and objects of Maintaining National Parks and Wild Life Sancturies. In this connction it is useful to remember what professor Huxley wrote on this subject. As his words are apposite to be quoted, those words are

reproduced. He said :— "What is the need of National Parks, people say. when East Africa already has such excellent Game and Forest Reserves, and when its regulations preserving rare species of animals are so good and so well enforced? The answer is that the Reserves are not reserves in perpetuity, but can be cut down or abolished at administrative pleasure. Forest Reserves are indeed wonderful reservoirs of Wild nature, but they too fall very short of the national Sanctury ideal. They do so for the simple reason that they are under the control of men whose job is to build up an efficient forestry business for the country. In doing so, they not only cut and interfere with nature, but usually replant with alien trees, often because they happen to be quite quick-growing. If the present general trend continues, then in a hundred years or so, the entire character of African mountain forests will be altered and the alteration in the trees will, of course, react on their animal inhabitants".

It is in view to afford all reasonable protection to Wild Life fron the depredations of man that National Parks and National Sanctuaries are created. A 'National Park' is a place of safety reserved for wild animals with undisturbed natural surroundings. Here animals are not allowed to be killed or scared. It is also a pleasure or recreation place for man, where he finds enjoyment in having actual contact with life. One of the biggest recreational institutions of this nature is the African National Park where it is said over a thousand cars enter every year and thousands of people enjoy the thrills of life. Many people find great pleasure with mere sight of these animals enjoying, amidst their natural surroundings, their God-given liberty and ease. Others find their visit so exhilarating that they cannot resist the temptation of 'shooting the animals not with their fifle but with their cameras and carrying home memorable mementors of their visit. 'National Sancturaries' are reserved forests for wild

animals, and they live and thrive undisturbed. No ordinary sight seers or visitors are allowed here, but Naturalists and men of Science of accepted reputation only are admitted. All forms of Wild Life who have the fortune to be housed here enjoy perfect liberty amidst their natural surroundings. The example set by the authorities in Africa in establishing the National Park has evidently roused a train of thoughts in tender hearts. In spite of her hoary past and notwithstanding the fact that India has for centuries has been the land of *Ahimsa*, it must plead guilty to the charge of indifference on this subject. Despite also the very important circumstance that some Provinces in British India are rich in Wild Life and that the fauna found therein have attracted Naturalists and others humanely interested, the truth remains that no adequate attention was paid till recently in India for the preservation of Wild life till certain humanitarian workers entered the field and formed an Association in the United Provinces where the country has been blessed with a wealth of fauna considered rich in various ways.

The example set by the United Provinces was followed in Madras where His Excellency the Governor himself took the initiative. A preliminary meeting was held in the Banqueting Hall on the 7. June, 1933, at which His Excellency himself presided. A preliminary conclusion had been arrived at among the well-wishers and promoters of the movement that it could gain strength only with the active help and co-operation of unofficial agencies interested in the subject, although Government help might be relied upon as a background. The business of the meeting began with this idea uppermost in the mind of the organisers. The representative character of the gathering of the gentlemen present also greatly supported the idea of unofficial support as the main stay of the movement.

The Governments of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin expressed their desire to co-operate in the formatiom of an Association.

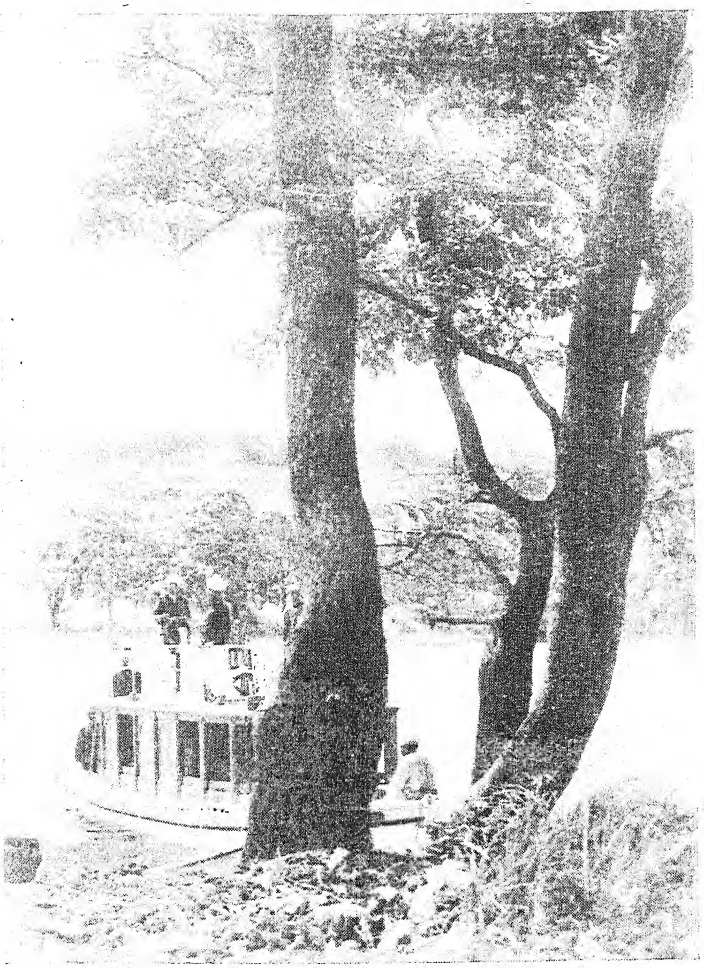
In opening the proceedings, His Excellecy the President observed that of recent years thers has been a considerable increase in the destruction of wild life and that, unless steps were taken to prevent it, many species would soon become extinct. Specific instances of the rapidity of the disappearance of such animals were mentioned in letters which had been received by His Excellency from various gentlemen who had been invited to attend the meeting but were unable to do so. His Excellency particularly laid stress on the object for which the meeting had been convened, *viz.*, the preservation of Wild Life, including birds and emphasised that the improvement of *shikar* prospects was not an object for consideration at the meeting.

The gentlemen attending the meeting were unanimously in favour of forming an Association for the preservation of Wild Life and, in view of the offers of co-operation which had been received from Mysore, Travancore and Cochin Governments, it was agreed that an Association should be formed for South India and not for the Madras Presidency alone. The ways and means of inaugurating the Association were then considered and later on the Association was ushered into existence.

His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal, Maharaja of Travancore, having already expressed his sympathy with the aims and objects referred to above, followed it up with practical action. It is perhaps well known that among the Princely Order in India, Travancore and Cochin are States whose Rulers have kept free from the hunting propensities. Indeed, there is a story current that, when an European visitor asked His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja, as to whether His Highness likes hunting, the prompt reply came from this worthy

representative of his illustrious Royal House that he does not like to take any life which God has given. As additional proof of this predominant trait in His Highness' character, it may be mentioned that His Highness had already shewn this spirit of humane sensitiveness by evincing personal interest in the protection and preservation of the fauna of the State. It was again this Divine quality in His Highness which induced him to respond cheerfully and promptly to a request made by the Bombay Natural History Society for financial help with a liberal donation of Rs. 5,000. That His Highness was strong and steady in this benevolent matter was seen from another circumstance. When in 1935 an All-India Conference was convened by His Excellency the Viceroy, the Travancore Government participated in it by deputing their Game Warden, Mr. S. C. H. Robinson, to attend it as their representative. As early as in November, 1933, the Travancore Government, following the proceedings of the Conference held in Madras, created the appointment of a Special Officer for the preservation of Wild Life in the forests of the State. A better selection could not have been made. By nature and instinct a lover of animals and an experienced *shikari*, his official life in the State service was spent in the Hills. Entering the State service as Superintendent and District Magistrate of the Cardamom Hills, he later on was promoted as the Revenue Officer in charge of the Hill District of Travancore and District Magistrate. Thus he spent more than twelve years as the lord of the hills where abound Wild Life in a form and variety not surpassed by many parts of the world. The dozen years he spent in these mountain regions and among the planters made him thoroughly familiar with the conditions of the whole of the sylvan area of the State and brought him in close contact with the denizens of these regions. It was only about an year ago that a party of us had the rare good fortune to visit this Sanctuary of Wild Life under the wise guidance and

experienced leadership of Mr. Robinson whose close and unsurpassed knowledge of every nook and corner of the home of these wonderful creations of God astonished every one of us. His Highness is indeed fortunate in having secured the valuable services of such an able and enthusiastic Officer to carry out the benevolent behests of His Highness. When they appointed him as Game Warden, he was instructed *inter alia* (1) to take immediate steps for the protection of game by creating game preserves in suitable places in the State Forests, (2) to help in the formation of Game Associations whose duties will be to look after the preservation of game in their jurisdictions, regulate hunting and also introduce new and varied species of animals and birds from other countries, and also (3) to see to the prevention of poaching and such other offence. Mr. Robinson has carried out the objects mentioned above, though more remains to be done. The first thing he did was to select a proper and suitable area where Wild Life in the State could live amidst their accustomed surroundings and natural habitat. He, therefore, submitted proposals for the creation of two Sanctuaries in localities known as Nellikampatty and the Sabarimullai Plateau, both of which are situated on the shores of the Periyar Lake. But the point for consideration was that Sanctuaries are transient institutions as pointed out at the International Conference held at London and also at the Conference convened at Delhi. It was also stated that these Sanctuaries were only the first step towards the realisation of the object in view, *viz*, the effective preservation of Wild Life. In accordance with the spirit of the resolutions passed at the two Conferences, Mr. Robinson revised his proposals to Government and recommended the conversion of the whole Catchment Area of the beautiful Lake, including the two above-said places, into a National Park. As explained above in connection with the National Park in Africa, this would, Mr. Robinson added, bring in revenue to the State,



In the Game Sanctuary



Bikanir at Periyar

as the provision of facilities for the visitors and tourists would automatically yield a good income and would place the question of preservation of Wild Life on a paying basis. The magnificiant natural conditions obtaining in these wonderful tracts seem to be specially designed for a National Park at the smallest expense to Government. The whole Catchment Area of the Lake is 160 square miles. The Lake which is formed by damming the Periyar river is about 21 miles in length. It is protected on three sides by natural boundaries in the shape of precipitous cliffs and, hence, entails no expense for fences of any kind, nor walls or guards as in the case of National Parks elsewhere. Another advantage is that it has a perpetual water supply for the animals which, when they come for quenching their thirst, can be easily seen even in definite places and at certain stated hours. In other places where there is difficulty in getting water the game frequently shift from one place to another according to the convenience of water supply, for one area of marshes may dry up at certain seasons of the year when the animals naturally go to another place where water may be available for a certain time. But here in this blessed part of the country the Lake never dries and has always enough water for the animals. The temperature also is neither too hot nor too cold. Apart from the thrills of joy or pleasure which a visitor may feel on seeing Wild Life in their usual habitat, the scenery all round is so superb that it alone will repay all the trouble and expense to which one may be put in undertaking that thrill of a journey. It is not every part of the world that presents such a magnificent sight to man. The beautifully laid out Lake is itself an inducement for a cruise which can be had in perfect peace, joy and eternal solitude which add to the enjoyment. As you cruise leisurely along, you can see Wild Life in their natural habitat either quenching their thirst, or grazing unconcernedly in the hills. When we were cruising on this Lake on our return

journey from the Periyar Dam in the evening when Nature herself was also returning to her calm and peace, we were not only enthralled by the naked beauty of the locality, but also by frequent sights of a herd of elephants aimlessly moving from one place to another, an antelope coming to the edge of the shores and sipping Heaven's liquid, yonder a number of bison feeding on the towering grass, still beyond a collection of spotted deer gleefully playing in the thick bushes, raising their head at the slightest suspicion of human voice, and trying to run away, a ferocious panther challenging, as it were, an attack from any human being but always ready to run away and thus elude its possible enemy, a savage-looking wild dog anxious for a nice feed of some human being. These are sights which can be had no where on this planet. God has specially blessed Travancore in the happy situation of this National Park where no roads are necessary, even were it possible, for one to go round. Another distracting factor is that a drive through the roads will certainly scare away the animal. On the other hand, the boat journey besides being comfortable and enjoyable, enables a sight of Wild Life in all its forms. It was truly a prophetic vision which discovered these veritable beauty spots which have been made a National Park. For, long before the idea ever dawned of a National Park, these tracts were the favoured region for *shikar*, and distinguished visitors like Commanders-in Chief, India, Provincial Governors and Viceroys have been here with their hunting accoutrements. I have gone over these regions more than once in the course of my journalistic work. They beggar description and are above praise. Any visitor or tourist who does not see these sequestered regions will have missed a most glorious spot created by God for man's enjoyment. There is motor road all through till the edge of the Lake with Rest Houses at convenient places where one can stay comfortably.

Having started the National Park which has already attracted many tourists and visitors, Mr Robinson turned his attention to the formation of Game Associations. He first visited all parts of the State and decided that the best way of promoting the cause would be to concentrate attention round Peermade. The Peermade Game Association was accordingly formed in 1935 with the following objectives :—

(1) to promote an interest in the preservation and conservation of all forms of animal life, birds and fish, and to co-operate with Government and other Societies and institutions which have similar aims and objects.

(2) to advise and help Government in the formation and guarding of National Parks and Sanctuaries, fauna and flora reservations, etc., and the introduction of other game, birds, animals, and fish, and to provide facilities for legitimate sport to members of the Society in such areas as are open to shooting, fishing, etc.,

(3) to assist in enforcing the Game and Arms Rules, and to suggest to Government any alterations in the existing rules.

(4) to educate and build up a sound popular opinion on the subject of Game Preservation and on sport generally.

(5) to provide funds and assist in carrying out the above objects.

To further evince his keen interest in Animal Life His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to comply with the invitation of the Association to be their Patron. During these five years three successive Representatives of the British Government at the Court of the State have held the office of President of the Association. A special set of Game

Rules for the area allotted to the Association was drawn up by Government in consultation with the Association and brought into force from the 16th August, 1937, i. e. from the Malabar official year 1112. The Association's bye-laws were also accepted and approved by Government As a token of the confidence of Government a few members of the Association were invested with certain powers relating to the seizure of property liable to confiscation, arrest of offenders, and other matters relating to the decision as to the number, size, etc. of animals of any species which can be shot under a license, or to close the shooting of any species for any period. The Travancore Government have also constituted the Committee of the Peermade Game Association as the Licensing Authority to issue licenses, to cancel or suspend them, and credit to their funds the proceeds of the fees for licenses, etc., The Association may now be said to have been placed on a sound and permanent footing. The working of the Association has been placed in the hands of sportsmen who have lived for a considerable number of years among the wild animals of the State, have had plenty of time and opportunities to study them and may, therefore, be considered as the best authority on the whole subject of Game Preservation generally. The Government act on the well known maxim that the licensed sportsman is the best friend of Game Preservation, because he shoots only old animals which are useless for breeding or any other purpose. He shoots only a limited number under dictates of his own inclination as a sportsman and of the Game laws which he respects. His interest in Game induces him to act as an unpaid auxiliar staff to the authorities in patrolling out of the way places and preventing poaching. The last, but not the least important point, is that he is a source of considerable revenue to Government as well as to the Game Association in the shape of license fees for shooting or fishing and for the import of arms and

ammunition. The members of the Association meet once an year and select by ballot their Chairman and three members of their Committee. The District Magistrate, the Divisional Forest Officer and the Game Warden are ex-officio members of the Committee and the Game Warden is the Honorary Secretary of the Association. In order to check poaching, to see which varieties of the fauna are on the increase and which varieties require special further preservation, the Committee of the Peermade Game Association have appointed several members of the Association at selected places all over the Game Association's area as Honorary Game Wardens and Government have also invested them with certain powers under the Regulation. These Honorary Game Wardens are selected from such areas as require protection and from such members who are in a position to supervise the country in their neighbourhood and prevent offences. To help them in their work they are given Game Watchers as far as the funds of the Association permit. These Game Watchers have no powers, but what they have to do is only to inform the nearest Honorary Game Warden, or Forest or Police Officer, of the commission of any offence against the Game laws or Arms Act. The Committee, on the other hand, are the administrative body of the Association and they are selected from such members of the Association who take a lively interest in the subject and who are able to attend the meeting and work the administrative machinery.

A perusal of the last Annual Report of the Peermade Game Association shows that steady progress has been made in the matter of Wild Life preservation which has been possible owing to the very keen interest evinced by the members. The watchful interest taken by the Royal Patron and the members of His Highness' Family and the Dewan, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, has been an inspiration to the members. Their visits to the National Park and their campign

in the sylvan surroundings have gone a long way to stimulate interest. They themselves were able to see Wild Life in their own accustomed areas and were not a little delighted with the sight. They spent most of their time in the Hills in going over the forests, observing Wild Life in various forms such as elephants, bison, sambur, etc., and took cine and still photos of the animals they saw. Thus His Highness the Maharaja and Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi and the Dewan were highly impressed with the site of the National Park and with the world of good it can do in the preservation of Wild Life. Though the organisation of this National Park is not complete in itself, it has already attracted attention from competent visitors and from distinguished tourists who have declared it as a magnificent institution unsurpassed by any in the world.

The Peermade Game Association which is at its third year of organised life has at present a membership of fifty-five. The receipts and expenditure of the Association are noted below:—

Year	Receipts	Expenditure
1113 (1937-38)	Brs. 3,445-5-8	Rs. 773-4-11
1114 (1938-39)	Do. 3,079-10-7	Do. 2,652-5-4
1115 (1939-40)	Do. 3,822-10-1	Do. 5,324-8-10.

The chief cause of the increase in expenditure in 1115 was due mainly to (i) an increase in the number of Game Watchers and (ii) to the purchase of an out-board motor boat by the Association for the use of its members. This is not only an additional attraction for others to join the Association, but serves the purpose of propaganda, and with this object in view, the Association has made a provision that people from places outside the Associaton's area can join the Association at a nominal subscription of one rupee per month, and thus they could make use of the boat in order to have a cruise in the Lake and see the Wild Life on the shores. It may be mentioned that this results in loss to the Association, but the Association hope to do propaganda work and thus induce the

general public to take greater interest in Wild Life. It is with considerable gratification that the report records the fact that, while there has been an increse in Game, poaching has steadily decreased. During the short period of three years, i. e. from 1112 to the end of 1114, there were 34 cases of offence against Game laws as against 23 in the preceding five years.

The Game Warden, Mr. Robinson, has been very enthusiastic in doing propaganda work by getting published in the news papers, English as well as Malayalam, articles to make the public understand the real aims and objects of the Government in starting the National Park and also in recording the good work done by the Association. In fact, he has made it plain that non-official agencies can do a great deal to supplement the beneficent work launched by Government on the well known principle of *Ahimsa*, common to all religious creeds and sects. It is also worthy of note that the Association has offered rewards for the successful prosecution of poaching and kindred offences.

From the summary given of the steps taken by Government so far, it will be seen that Travancore has stolen a march in this matter as in several others and that in a short time more substantial work will be carried out to justify the appellation it has secured throughout India as "Dharma Rajyam."

CHAPTER IX

MUSIC AND DRAMA IN TRAVANCORE

Augustan Era of Music

"Music is, or should be, not a luxury, but a part of every one's daily life".—JAH KUBELIK.

"We are the inheritors of a great tradition, and it is no small responsibility to hand on to succeeding generations the torch lit by Maharaja Swati Tirunal".—HIS HIGHNESS SIR SRI CHITRA TIRUNAL, MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

What would have been the fate of Carnatic Music in South India but for the Royal House of Travancore? This is a question which will naturally be asked by any one interested in the development of Music in South India. It is an arresting fact that the Royal House of this State was the favoured home of Music as early as 600 years ago. Music played an important part in the social and religious life of the people also. The peculiar feature in the cultural life of the people of Travancore was that it always encouraged and fostered fine arts. Many old melodies mentioned in ancient Tamil works, though lost to the rest of South India, have been preserved in this State. From the very beginning a remarkable note of Travancore Music was its variety. Such varieties as pastoral music, folk music, etc., flourished and developed into devotional music which has been kept up from early times in temples. Of the 108 temples of India sacred to Sri Vaishnavas, eleven are in Travancore. From the devotional type grew the *Sopana* style which distinguishes Travancore Music from other systems. The *Sopana* style is so called because the movements are slow, steady and gradual. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries of the Christian era the music of Travancore underwent a remarkable change in transformation by the introduction of

the *Gitagovinda* of Jayadeva whose hymns, *Ashtapathis*, became popular in South India and spread to Travancore where they were sung in temples. It is believed that the grace of sound and diction employed in the singing of these songs set the standard of musical melody in the State which captivated the mass mind inclined to music to such an extent that these songs are sung in most of the temples even today. From these sprang *Padams*. The precursor of this type of musical composition in Travancore was Virakerala Varma who was the Raja of Kottaraka in the 17" Century A. D. It is further surmised that Virakerala Varma was also the founder of *Kathakali*. We next come to the great Kartika Tirunal (1758 to 1798 A. D.) whose rule has been signalised by the advancement of culture in every form. He mastered the scientific technique of Music and became a scientific musician and connoisseur. This illustrious Maharaja was not only a great Musician but also an equally great ruler whose glorious reign of 40 years is one of the longest in the history of Travancore, characterised, as it was, by wisdom, justice and humanity which endeared him to all his subjects. He was rightly adored as the *Dharma Raja* (the good and just king), a title of honour which has remained with the Travancore Maharajas ever since. and, Englishmen called him "The father of his people". In the words of Dewan Bahadur V. Nagam Aiya, the learned author of *The Travancore State Manual*, "that Rama Varma was a great and good ruler, a man of wonderful capacity, and resources, of uncommon rectitude, of boldness, firmness and decision of character, kind and forgiving, all who knew him must ungrudgingly admit. He was an ideal Hindu king still remembered throughout the length and breadth of India as Rama Raja, the Just (*Dharma Raja*)". He lived to the good old age of 74.

The next musician member of the Travancore Royal House was Prince Asvathi Tirunal. He was a powerful composer

whose mellifluous singing was admired for its sweetness and the sublime heights of emotion and piety to which it rose. It is said that his melodies were an extempore outburst of a perfect musical form. He died a premature death.

Meanwhile the State began to produce musicians of a high order whose powers of originality in the practice of this muse were unquestioned and who have left indelible marks of greatness behind them. One such eminent musician was Unnayi Variar (1735-1785). His compositions are still remembered and sung in many homes. His name will ever stand in the musical world for the originality and richness of his songs.

The Golden Age in Travancore, nay, South Indian Music, is yet to dawn. It was the period when South India was honoured by a remarkable band of Musicians headed by the Trinity of Music, as they were rightly designated, composed of the Sage and Musician, Sri Tyagaraja, sonorous Syama Sastri and Scholastic Muthuswami Dhikshadar, who flooded the whole country with their masterly and exquisite Music. It was about this time that Travancore was equally well blessed by this muse. His Highness Swati Tirunal Maharaja who lived from 1813 to 1847 had already made his mark in the world of Carnatic Music not only as a first-rate composer but also as a superb singer. Not only Travancore, but the whole of Kerala, is indebted to him for the exceptional manner in which he enabled Kerala to keep intact the Swadesi culture of this coast in arts and letters. Probably, the geographical situation of this part of India is largely responsible for this wonderful result, namely, the high mountains and the deep sea, which made the West Coast invulnerable and hence self-contained. His musical talents of a high order attracted the best votaries of the art and this period has been fittingly described as "The Augustan Era" for Music in South India. The name of His Highness Swati Tirunal as a composer and



His Highness Swati Tirunal Maharaja

singer took a high place and was placed on the same level with those of Tyagaraja, Syama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshadar. His compositions were in Sanskrit, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Marathi and Hindi and are even today sung in different parts of India. His works on the subject of Music were many and are found in such distant places as Poona, Agra, Mysore etc., and have been collected for publication. They are considered valuable not only from a musical point of view but also from a literary standard. It is understood that His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharajais very keen in publishing these works and has entrusted this task to Sangita Vidwan Brahmasri Gayaka Sikamani Lingam Aiyar Muthaya Bhagavadar, the Court Vidwan of Mysore, whose services are lent to this State. Though *Bhakthimanjari*, the most important of his works, has already been published in the Trivandrum Sanskrit Series, there are several others which are a treasure to Carnatic Music. He set a new style in composition and in technique. Most of his compositions were intended for finished votaries of the art and could not be easily followed by men untrained in the science and it was for that reason that they did not become as popular as they should have been, though later on, when the scientific musicians learned them, the *kritis* of this gifted Royal Composer became very popular not only in South India but also in distant parts of India like the Telugu and Tamil countries and Maharashtra because his songs were composed in Indian languages current in these parts. His original compositions attracted the attention of such eminent and distinguished votaries from outside as the four brothers, Vadivelu, Sivanandam, Chinnaya and Ponnaya — all experts in the theory and practice of music. Of these Vadivelu was the most reputed musician of his time, while Ponnaya was a gifted composer of Swarjiths, Padams and Varnams. Other musicians who adorned the court of Swati Tirunal were Kshirabdi Sastrial, Parameswara Bhagavathar

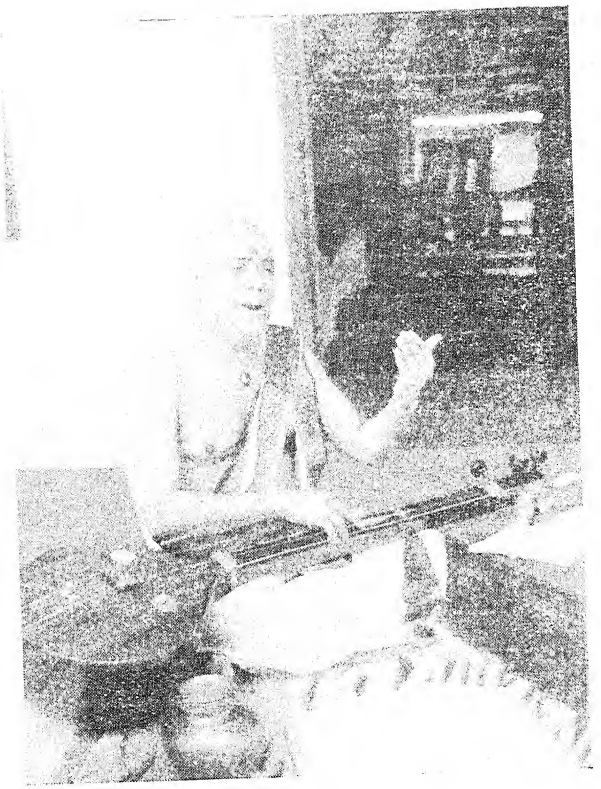
of Palghat and Meruswami Bhagavathar of Tanjore. Travancore too had produced great musicians like the Vidwan Koil Thampuran of Kilimanur, Iravi Varman Tampi and Govinda Marar who later on was known as Govindaswami. His musical talents were unsurpassed. He left Travancore and in the course of his travels he met the famous Tyagaraja in his house in the Tanjore District. The meeting has become an event of considerable importance in the history of Carnatic music in South India. For, Tyagaraja Swami was so struck with his singing in six *kalams* (which means 32 times the original speed) that he was designated by Tyagaraja as *Shatkala Govinda*. He extended his travels to such distant places of pilgrimage as Pandarpur, Benares, etc. He never returned to Travancore. He was born in the Ramamangalam village in the Muvattupuzha taluk in North Travancore. Parameswara Bhaghavathar from Palghat was another great name who flourished in the Court of Travancore, having first arrived here during the reign of Sri Swati Tirunal. Kalyanakrishna Bhagavathar, an expert in *Veena*, was another well-known musician who came to Travancore, attracted by the name and fame of Sri Swati Tirunal and later on remained here as a court musician. His son Venkitadri Bhagavathar, an equally eminent Veena player, is at present a court musician. In fact the glorious reign of Sri Swati Tirunal was the Augustan Era of music in Travancore, surrounded, as His Highness was, by a distinguished galaxy of musicians—both vocal and instrumental—who, patronised by His Highness, made history in South Indian music. In this connection mention has to be made about the Maharaja's Dewan Subha Rao who first came here as Tutor to His Highness. He was a well-known player on Swarabat and Mridangam. It was from his Dewan that the Maharaja learnt Swarabat. It is said that both the Maharaja and his Dewan used to spend evenings in playing on this instrument.

In regard to the musical compositions of Sri Swati Tirunal, he took as model those of one of his distinguished contemporaries, Margadarsi Sesha Iyengar of Srirangam who lived in the seventeenth century and who composed, in Sanskrit, as he was known to be a great Sanskrit scholar. As stated above, Sri Swati Tirunal composed in Sanskrit, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Canarese, Marathi and Hindi. His compositions comprise Tana Varna, Sowka Varnams, Padams, Kritis, Tillanas, Upakhyanams, etc. The following list gives the approximate numbers :—

1.	Tana Varnams	2
2.	Sowka Varnam	19
3.	Padam	65
4.	Navaratri Kirtanams	9
5.	Nava Raga Malika	9
6.	Ghana Ragha Kriti	8
7.	Ramayana Kriti	2
8.	Bhagavata Kriti	1
9.	Desavatara Kriti	1
10.	Kirtana (including Canarese compositions)	118
11.	Mangalam	3
12.	Tillana	6
13.	Hindi pieces	37

It should not be supposed that the above is an exhaustive list of his compositions. The above list only shows the variety of his compositions which only an inspired and technical musician is capable of producing. There is a book on the Theory of Music written by His Highness in his own handwriting and which is preserved in the Library of Oriental Manuscripts. Mr. R. Srinivasan, M. A., the well known musician and musical critic and Professor of Mathematics, His Highness the Maharaja's Science College, says in the course of an article by him :—"The ease with which he composed the songs was remarkable. He had a style of his own. He has covered a

vast *gamat*, from the very simple piece to highly technical compositions which will baffle even a firt rate musician. At the same time the diction of some of his compositions is simplicity itself". As Tyagaraja was about 70 years old when His Highness Sri Swati Tirunal Maharaja was in his halcyan days as a musician, many of his compositions are, no doubt, influenced by those of Tyagaraja whose pupils had already made his songs available to the public. Some musical critics are of opinion that in some of the compositions of Sri Swati Tirunal there is a judicious blending of the styles of Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshadar, but there is no doubt of the fact that the compositions of the Royal Composer are a class by themselves highly religious in conception and orginal in style. Several examples can be easily quoted in support of this statement. Piety and devotion are the key-note of his compositions. Even here variety is a predominant character. For instance, His Highness has composed *slokams* and *kirtanams* to be sung during the nine days of the *Navaratri* festival, particular pieces being ear-marked for particular days. A great devotee, he has composed two *Upakhyanams* or devotional musical performances which at present are called *Harikathas*. In the composition of these he was influenced by Kokila Kantta (Or the cuckoo-voiced) Meruswami Bhagavathar, who, at the request of His Highness, had settled in Travancore and was given a decent pay. He was so much liked and revered by His Highness that an oil painting of his was ordered to be placed in His Highness the Maharaja's dining hall. He died in 1870. So far, the most important works on Music attributed to His Highness are, (1) *Sri Padmanabha Sataka*, (2) *Syanandurapuravarnana*, (3) *Utsava Prabhandham*, (4) *Bhaktimanjiri*, (5) *Ajamilopakhyana*, (6) *Kuchelopakhyana* (7) *Sangita Kritis*. Other works have been discovered and attempts are being made now to make them available to the public. This is one of the aims of the Sri Swati Tirunal



Gayakasikhamani L. Muthaya Bhagavathar



Sri Gayakasikhamani L. Muthaya Bhagavathar with others singing

Academy of Music of which the Honorary Principal is Brahmasri Gayaka Sikamani Lingam Iyer Muthaya Bhagavathar. In this school there are two classes of pupils who are trained to sing the songs of Sri Swati Tirunal. In this way a band of musicians is being reared who will be the future teachers of Music in the handreds of Vernacular Schools maintained and supported entirely by the State. In every one of these Schools Music is taught as a separate subject. No doubt, His Highness' compositions have not become so popular as they deserve to be. The reason is that, as Sriman T. Lakshmana Pillai, B. A., the reputed Travancore Musician says, "his longer pieces are highly complex and would put to the test the vocal powers of even an advanced musician". Another reason is that, he could not have had *Sishyas* after the manner of ordinary Bhagavathars who generally train boys in their own home, because of his position as the Ruler of the State. But it is to be hoped that the Sri Swati Tirunal Academy of Music referred to above will easily remove this difficulty.

It is not on the field of Music alone that his fame rests. The period of his rule as Sovereign extending to 18 years is one of the brightest Chapters in the history of Travancore. It was during the reign of this Maharaja that many of the public institutions were started: Establishment of Munsiffs' Courts, framing of the first Code of Laws on the model of the British enactments, completion of Revenue Settlement and Survey, conducting the first Census in the State, establishment of the first English School under State control, opening of the Trivandrum Observatory, the establishment of the first Medical Institution under the Allopathic system, inauguration of the Vaccination department, criminals being given humane treatment, encouragement of science and arts by liberal donations and other forms of help; Rev. Peet of Mavelikara, who had compiled a Malayalam Grammar, was given Rs. 1,000, an English Library opened in the town was given a grant of

Rs. 500, the nucleus of the present Public Library: a certain Sastry who was teaching Sanskrit free to numerous pupils in the front corrridor of the Sri Padmanabha Swami temple in Trivandrum, was given a permanent salary: a European artist from Bombay and a Naidu from Tanjore, who produced, on Ivory plates, the likenesses of the Maharaja and of the Queen, were suitably rewarded with donations: a certain Sastriar who presented His Highness with a good palm leaf copy of *Vasishtam*, a Sanskrit work unknown in Travancore till then, was presented with money and a golden bangle. Malayalam savants received suitable rewards, each according to his worth. This is but a brief summary of the administrative events in the reign of His Highness. Towards the latter part of his rule the Resident of the time was responsible for a good deal of trouble which caused His Highness immense pain and mental grief. He never took any interest in the affairs of the State and spent the rest of his life in meditation and pursuit of religious studies and the composition of several works on the theory and practice of Music and other compositions also which have become a national asset. He died in his thirty-fourth year. It is worth mentioning that Sri Swati Tirunal died in 1847, the year which saw the disappearance from this world of Tyagaraja at the ripe old age of 82.

The successor of His Highness Sri Swati Tirunal was Uttaram Tirunal Martanda Varma Maharaja whose reign lasted for 13 years during which the *status quo* of Music secured for the State was maintained, though the Maharaja was not himself a profound musician.

If Sri Swati Tirunal is remembered as a great composer as well as a scientific musician, the name of His Highness Ayilliam Tirunal (1860-1880) will long be handed down to posterity as a first rate singer of profound erudition and masterful technique in the art of singing. His wonderful

talents as a singer, coupled with his sweet natural voice, attracted several professional musicians from South India who were anxious to get audience with His Highness and secure an opportunity to sing before his august presence. Such master-singers as Mahavaidyanatha Bhagavathar, Parameswara Bhagavathar, Coimbatore Raghava Iyer, Kalyanakrishna Iyer, the well-known Veena player of Palghat, Mahadeva Iyer, reputed violinist, etc., flourished during this reign. It was then that the famous musical combat between Mahavaithi Bhagavathar and Raghava Iyer took place in the presence of His Highness who was himself an eminent vocalist, his unsurpassed musical talents having been acknowledged by the most reputed professionals. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai, the eminent Travancore Musician, says that "the combat proved that Travancore could produce musicians who could meet foreign musicians on equal footing, provided the necessary encouragement was forthcoming." Besides the above distinguished luminaries there were also lesser lights who had made their own name.

Two other musicians of the Royal House whose names cannot be forgotten are Raja Kerala Varma C. S. I., who in the field of Sanskrit literature, has been called "Modern Kalidasa", and his talented Consort, Her Highness Lakshmi Bayi C. I., the Senior Rani. Both of them were Veena players of a high order.

We next come to another Musician Prince, Aswati Tirunal B. A., the first graduate among the Princely Order in India. Even during his early youth he showed musical talents of a high order. His remarkably sweet voice and his admirable singing, coupled with his keen intellect and quick grasp, gave bright promise of a distinguished career, but these hopes were dashed to the ground by his premature death at an early age.

No account of music in Travancore is complete without a reference to the Mavelikara stock of the Royal House which has given brilliant musicians like Kunjar Raja who had distinguished himself as a Swarabat player and whose wonderful performances the Author has enjoyed with delight. Other fine arts also had their exponents in this family. The brightest and latest member who has inherited these talents to a high degree of proficiency is Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi D. Litt. who is a finished player in the difficult and complex instrument of Veena which is Her Highness' hobby. His Highness the Maharaja who, like his great ancestor Ayilliam Tirunal, has a rich and melodious voice, would easily have taken his place as a renowned vocalist but for his other preoccupations as a Ruler. Still he is known to be a musical critic of a high order. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai in referring to Her Highness the Maharani says that Her Highness' "knowledge of the theory and practice of music is simply astonishing" He proceeds; "No one who has had the good fortune of listening to her conversaion about Music can fail to be struck with Her Highness' high, keen and refined intelligence, her profundity of knowledge and the vast fund of her information on the subject of Music. As a player on the Veena, Her Highness takes rank with the best artists in the field". These fine qualities of the real artist are inherited by Her Highness' daughter, Her Highness Princess Kartiga Tirunal whose musical accomplishments have already won praise from competent musical critics.

An illustrious Royal House like ours which has at its back such an ancient and valuable heritage of traditions and musical talents represented today by gifted, patriotic and noble souls like His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja and Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi naturally feels that it is their moral duty to revive and resuscitate this finest of fine arts and has

already to its credit a splendid record of which any Royal Dynasty may be legitimately proud. It may very well be compared with the ancient Rulers in India — Hindu or Mohamedan—who have all through these centuries kept alive the lamp of Indian music aglow. During the past 10 years this flickering light has shown a steady and ever increasing flame on account of the oil of State patronage so ungrudgingly poured into it by Their Highnesses. There is not a single musician of repute in Southern India who has not had his share of help extended to him by them. The auspicious occasion of His Highness' Birthday or the *Navarathri* has always been reckoned as seasons of Art Festival, when not only music but every form of art such as Dancing, *Kathakali*, *Ottam Thullal*, Drama or any other, receives its full measure of support. The very fact that loud speakers were installed at heavy cost at the different centres of the town during festivals only shows how desirous Their Highnesses are that every one who wants may enjoy music that may be going on in the Palaces. Over and above these facilities provided with a lavish hand His Highness established over an year ago a School for the training of young men and girls in music, specially in the musical compositions of Sri Swati Tirunal. There are two classes of pupils, each class containing about two dozens of pupils. The aim of the School is to train boys and girls for the profession. There are over 3,000 schools under State management where music is taught. Most of the present Music Teachers in these Schools are untrained in music and fell into this means of livelihood in the absence of a better one, not because they had an innate taste for music or that they were trained to their jobs. In future the Music Teachers will be recruited from the successful candidates of this School. They can also become professionals and earn a living. The Honorary Principal, Brahmasri Gayaka Sikamani Lingam Iyer Muthaya Bhagavathar, is a great enthusiast in the profession, and probably

the best vocalist in South India whom His Highness the Maharaja was able to secure through the courtesy of His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore. He took me round the School and asked the girl pupils to sing first. They sang very well indeed, their voice being excellent and mellodious which speaks volumes for the selection of the pupils. I was greatly struck by their singing. The singing by the young men was equally good. I congratulated the Principal on the very nice choice he has made of the pupils who are to be the future exponents of Hindu music. The voice was particularly good. The melody they bring to bear on their music was delightful. The Principal deserves the thanks of the public, especially music-lovers, for his introduction of Tambur in the place of the vulgar harmonium which has not entered the School. High hopes of this institution are entertained in the revival of Carnatic music and in the propaganda and promotion of the Sri Swati Tirunal's Music in the State, if not in South India. The Principal told me that instrumental music would also be started soon.

Appreciation from outside the State

Four and ninety years have rolled by since the demise of Maharaja Sri Swati Tirunal. That his name should have been cherished with respect at this distance of time is the best testimony one can have of real merit. There can be no greater memorial than this enthusiastic recognition by professionals and non-professionals, individuals and bodies of individuals, who are themselves reputed votaries of the art. It was only about a couple of months ago that the Academy of Music in Madras and the Rasika Ranjini Sabha, Mylapore, vied with each other in commemorating the honoured name of this gifted composer, this Avatar of Saraswathi. In the course of his Address welcoming Their Highnesses Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal, the

Maharaja and Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi D.Litt of Travancore. Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar Kt. C. I. E. said :—

"Ably assisted by your distinguished Dewan you have extended patronage to a number of scholars, musicians and artists of repute from the different parts of India. True to the traditions of your ancient House and the noble Order to which you belong, you have considered it as one of your major concerns, the fostering of arts in general and music in particular, in the faith that the life of a community no less than that of an individual would be bleak and barren without a relish and longing for beauty. While it is true that the great creative artists are born and never made, obeying their own laws of individual evolution, there is much that planned leadership could do to stimulate co-ordinated effort and in any event to quicken the aesthetic sensibility of the common man. In the great encouragement that Your Highness is giving to the fine arts, including the revival of handicrafts, you are rightly drawing attention to the fact that in a fully orchestrated Government the artistic side of national life should not be allowed to languish. In our country for centuries the courts of kings have been the nurseries of great artists. It is under their patronage that Indian Art flourished and attained pre-eminence—the frescoes of Ellora, the Great masterpieces of Indo-Saracenic Art, and the imposing temples of South India. The name of Bhoja has come down to us through the fleeting centuries gathering legend and fable as a great art lover who would barter the royal treasure for a simile or a song.

Music has a warm place in your affections. It is not by any means an impersonal interest, for it is ever so refreshing to know that Your Highness the Maharaja and Your Highness the Maharani have musical accomplishments of no mean order. Besides, your great ancestor Maharaja Swathi Tirunal was a composer of the highest class. Welcome light is now being thrown on the range and variety of his work. That in days when distance was such a formidable obstacle to mutual knowledge and understanding he should have composed songs in so many languages, demonstrates not merely the versatility of his creative genious but the essential and fundamental unity underlying the various schools of Indian music. His work also affirms there are no tariff walls in the realm of art: and there could be none. In the carnival of song there

are many booths; It is subversive of all that music could do for man to propagate any isolationist bias. The life work of the great bards of India—Kabir, Tukaram, Thiagaraja and Maharaja Swati Tirunal—is an enduring inspiration to all-embracing cosmopolitanism that should characterise our attitude to music and art.

Srimathi. Alamelu Jayarama Iyer in requesting Her Highness The Maharani to unveil the portrait of Sri Swati Tirunal Maharaja observed thus :—

The Rulers of Travancore have from ancient times liberally patronised literature, music and other fine arts. Many of them have themselves obtained great fame and name as composers of music and as patrons of literature and *natya* His Highness Swati Tirunal Maharaja, whose portrait Her Highness the Maharanee will presently unveil, was himself a great composer and exponent of music and was a distinguished contemporary of Saint Thyagaraja.

The development of the arts and sciences has rightly been conceived by Your Highness as the primary duty of a ruler and what Your Highnesses have been doing for the revival of our glorigous music and fine arts is well known and worthy of emulation.

In unveiling the portrait Her Highness the Maharani delivered the following speech:—

Mr. President and members of the Rasika Ranjani Sabha,

The warm welcome that His Highness and I have received and the generous sentiments, full of kindly feeling to which Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer and Mrs. Jayarama Iyer have given expression in such eloquent terms, have deeply touched us and I thank you most sincerely for them.

This occasion has given us the opportunity of acquainting ourselves at first hand with the many-sided activities of the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, of whose work in the direction of encouraging and popularising high class music we have already heard so much.

It is with great pleasure that I take part in this function intended to commemorate the features and revive the memory of a ruler of Travancore, who occupies an assured place in the front rank of poets, musician and devotees and whom I am proud to claim a s my ancestor.

As in many human affairs, so in philosophy and the Arts, there seem to be cycles of stagnation, or slow growth, succeeded by bursts of efflorescence. The years before and just after the manifestation of supreme gifts of composition by Maharaja Swati Tirunal and his contemporaries, Sri. Theagayya, Muthuswami Dikshatar, and Shyama Sastri are good examples of this tendency.

Musical composition at its highest has demanded in India a rare combination of diverse gifts. Even when conforming to the *Sringara* ideal, music in India has always had as its background an abiding devotion to an *Ishtadevata*. This devotion is not always found in company with the faculty of apt poetic expression, without which music would be little more than the gymnastic of technique. But even granting the co-existence of devotion, and poetic gift, there is requisite a wide practical knowledge of an Art that is wedded to science and a science that touches the deepest springs of human emotion. It is one of the glories of India that during many generations there have existed personages who have united these varied qualities and have been able to produce finished types of poetic and musical accomplishment devoted to the highest use of religion. One of them was admittedly His Highness Sri Swati Tirunal.

It is not my object to deal with his brief, but gloriously many-sided life, nor shall I do more than point out the wide range of his compositions which have been couched in seven languages—Malayalam, Sanskrit, Mahratti, Telugu, Tamil, Canarese and Urdu—and have sought to reconcile word with melody, and often both with the demands of the *Natya*. The task of collecting and editing his works has been systematically commenced, although there still remains much to be done in the way of collation and revision of hymns and songs which have only recently been brought together from many sources within and beyond the confines of Travancore. It has been one of the declared aims of the recently started Swati Tirunal Academy of Music in Trivandrum, not only to popularise the Maharaja's works and to compile and adequately present them, but also to make of them a stimulus and an inspiration for the revival of correct musical taste and practice.

All over the world, there is a double danger to which poets, painters and musicians are subject. Sometimes they immure themselves

within the four walls of an artistic cell and concentrate upon an appeal to the elect. Others there are, who, from motives of profit or popularity, cater to the demands of temporary taste at the expense of that discipline and adherence to the fundamentals of a complicated art, without which the result must be jarring to the trained ear. All of us who as kinsmen or countrymen of Swati Tirunal have charged ourselves with the duty I have indicated have a great responsibility to fulfil. We shall discharge it best, by eschewing the vulgar and the common-place that are short cuts to uninstructed applause and by recapturing the spirit of a master, who wove hundreds of rainbow-tinted tissues of harmony on the warp of poesy, and laid them all at the feet of Lord Padmanabha, whose city and whose festivals he celebrated and whose praises he sang with the fervour of utter dedication. It is impossible to better the description of the true ideals of Indian music contained in Sri Swati Tirunal's own *Bhakti-manjari* :—

तन्त्रीनादविमिश्रितं लययुतं तारस्वनात्युज्वलं
श्रोत्रानन्दकरं चरिष्णुभिरलं ग्रामत्रयेऽपि स्वरैः
गीतं तारकनाम निर्भरसुधाज्युष्टं न चेत् तत्पुनः
व्यर्थं व्यर्थमरण्यरोदनमिव प्रायो रमावल्लभ ॥

(Mingled with the melody of string instruments, compact of balance and harmony, sweet to the ear, with gradations of three gramas, must be the song that celebrates Thy name and its sweetness and glory. Other varieties of music are indeed like the voices in the wilderness). V. 64, *Bhaktimanjari.*

I have now great pleasure in unveilling the portrait of His Highness Sri Swati Tirunal, whose picture will now adorn this magnificent hall as a great master of the musical art along with his compeers.

Drama too flourished in Travancore for centuries under Royal patronage. The earliest form of dramatic art was Chakkeyar's *Kottiyattam.* Next came the *Katha-kali* which had its origin in this State and it was a Raja of the principality of Kottarakara which later on was merged with the Travancore territory who first brought into existence *Kathakali.* This later on became popular in Malabar. Other forms of one — man drama such as



Gopinath and Thankamani



Sri Rama Pattabhishekam

Ottam Thullal, &c came into vogue and found favour among the populace, as the subject of these entertainments was taken from one or other episode of the Hindu texts, such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata, etc. Their recital with suitable music was introduced in temple festivals to attract people. The classic representation of *Kathakali* and the delineation of the various characters were modernised under the gracious auspices of Their Highnesses Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharajah and Maharani Setu Parvati Bai D. Litt. who have caused a typical set of these dramatic characters made in wood and placed in the Ranga Vilas Palace Art Gallery to enable foreign tourists and visitors to know what *Kathakali* drama is. The troupe of actors attached to the Palace also entertain distinguished State guests under command and thus give the outside lovers of art an opportunity to appreciate *Kathakali*. The appreciation of some of these persons has been such that they have taken cine and other photographs so as to enlighten a wider world of artists.

The patronage of Their Highness the Maharaja and Maharani has been extended to *Natya* or Dance. The services of Gopinath, a native of Travancore who has attained a high degree of proficiency in dancing, have been engaged as Palace Dancer. It is equally fortunate that Gopinath has found in his spouse Srimathi Thankamani, an equally talented votary of the art who was trained in the Kalamandal established by the well-known Malabar poet Vallathol. This couple along with their troupe are at the service of the Palace to give their delightful performances wherever called upon to do so. They maintain a school to train boys and girls in the art of *Natya* and this institution is helped by Government with a liberal and substantial grant. The School having become very popular, a new building is under construction at the cost of the State.

CHAPTER X

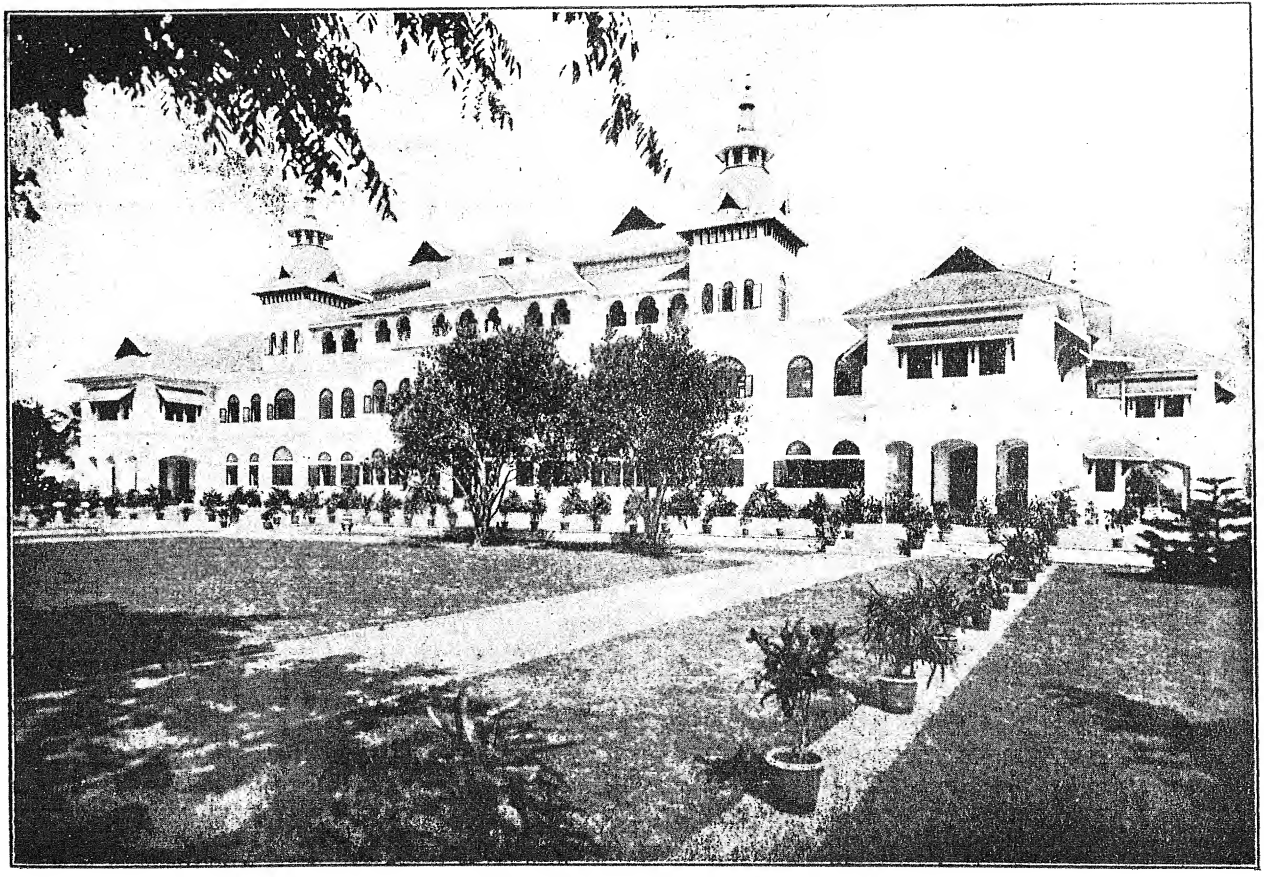
THE BIRTHDAY WEEK

A Round of Festivities

"The way in which Your Highness conducts the administration, assisted by your Dewan, has elicited universal approbation. I have known many States; I have mixed with Rulers, with Dewans and with subjects, high and low; and I am in a position, therefore, to testify to the high esteem in which this State is held all through the country, for its advance in every respect".—Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P. C., L. L. D.

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"A sound system of administration has perhaps more than anything else contributed to the rapid advance of Travancore in the economic and cultural spheres. The country is certainly fortunate in its Government. The Ruling Family is both cultured and progressive, and I was struck by the very keen interest taken in the administration by His Highness the Maharaja. He has recently attracted admiration and applause from all quarters by his courageons action in opening the State temples to those who have been hitherto considered outeastes. He has, in his mother, Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi, a warm and experienced counsellor, well-known throughout India for her championship of the cause of the emancipation of women. And over and above all this. His Highness has at his side as Chief Minister one of the ablest and strongst statesmen of India in the person of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, whose services to the State and to India have been recognised by the British Government in the recent Honours List by the bestowal of the title of K. C. S. I." SIR ALEXANDER RGGER, HEAD OF THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF SUPPLY MISSION TO INDIA.—



The Kowdiar Palace

To the instinctively loyal and religiously law-abiding people of Travancore there is no event more important or more anxiously looked forward to than the Birthday of their Sovereign or *Ponnuthampuran* (dearest Lord). The whole State is *en fete* and every town and village celebrate the auspicious occasion with great rejoicings.

The Birthday of His Highness the present Maharaja, Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal, has been celebrated with extra joy in view of the peculiar circumstances of his birth. Travancore has been put to unprecedented grief on account of the sad and premature death of the three Princes in quick succession, namely, Revati Tirunal, Chathayam Tirunal and Aswati Tirunal B. A., His Highness the late Maharaja Sri Mulam Tirunal was so smitten with grief that he almost despaired of a successor to the Throne. He, therefore, decided to adopt two Princesses from the Mavelikara Stock. This adoption took place on the 31st August, 1900. After this ceremony was performed His Highness the Maharaja was anxiously looking forward to see an heir to the ancient Throne of Venad. Both the State and its people were fortunately blessed by Sri Padmanabha and an heir was born on the 7th November, 1912, to the great joy of the people. The news that Her Highness Setu Parvati Bayi, the Junior Maharani, had given birth to a Prince was received with such jubilation that every one offered prayers to the Almighty and every place of public worship — Hindu temple, Christian church or Mohamedan mosque—was ringing with joy. A Prince born under such circumstances became naturally a great favourite with the people and gave immense joy to His Highness the late Maharaja. In fact the new born baby like his famous ancestor and illustrious Ruler, His Highness Sri Swati Tirunal Maharaja, came to be known as *Girbhasriman*, i. e., Great even in the womb.

The unprecedented demonstrations of a people's love and rejoicings found expression every year in connection with

the annual Birthday of His Highness. Till now there were no unofficial functions associated with the Birthday, initiated and organised on any definite plan of action. From 1932, the year after the investiture of His Highness with ruling powers, the people's celebrations formed the chief feature. The meeting which was organised under the distinguished guidance of *Rajyasevadhurandhara* Dewan Bahadur Mr. V. S. Subrahmania Aiyar, retired Dewan, was convened not only by the citizens of Trivandrum but also by the important residents of the Moffusal stations in the State. In compliance with the general wish expressed at the meeting it was resolved to hold an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at the capital city during the Birthday week. This method of celebrating this annual event appealed to His Highness the Maharaja who had already declared his policy in regard to the promotion of industries in the State. From that year this important function gained strength from year to year and expanded to great proportions and became so popular that it attracted attention from distant parts both inside and outside the State.

One direct result of the Exhibition was the encouragement of Cottage industries. During these nine years several Cottage industries such as Ivory carving, Wood-carving, Weaving, Soap-making, Mat-making, manufacture of writing ink, making of pen-holders, nibs, etc., have had a new impetus. In Agriculture too there have been definite improvements in cultivation, use of scientific implements, breeding of cattle, extended utilisation of chemical manures, etc.

A number of unofficial functions are arranged in Trivandrum with the object of affording education and entertainment of different kinds and getting the people interested in various activities. The holding of an Economic Conference has aroused attention and the public lectures

delivered under the auspices of this Conference have evoked thought on industrial subjects. Sachivottama Sir C. P, Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan, who opened the last Economic Conference, said :—" If I am taking part in this Conference, it is not for the purpose of gilding refined gold, or bringing in new lessons for the economists of Travancore, but with a view to take a conspectus of the economic position here and elsewhere and endeavour to derive from a survey of what is happening outside, some lessons for our guidance."

A Music conference is also convened and discussions held on the scientific aspects of the subject in which experts participate. Musical performances are arranged for five days or for a week according to circumstances. They are all well patronised. The Birthday week is availed of by several of the organisations in the State—literary, dramatic, arts, musical, etc. to hold public meetings which afford instruction to the people in diverse ways. A movement in Travancore has been active for the past few years whose aim and object is to foster and encourage indigenous arts and crafts such as *Kathakali, Ottamthullal,* Rope-dancing, etc. In view to promote these a special feature is arranged and for a few days a display of these indigenous arts is made in the Fort. Here *Nadaswaram* music is also arranged by the best pipers in South India. Thus it will be seen that the various Sub-Committees to whom the different items are entrusted see that the non-official celebration affords amusement, pleasure and instruction. A large floating population is attracted to the capital city who enjoy the festivities.

The official celebration commences in the previous morning of the Birthday with the archaic ceremony known as *Karikkuvettu* which is held in the age-old Ramana Matam Hall. This is a unique ceremony not found in any other State in India. Nor is its counter-part, *viz.*, the feeding on a

sumptuous scale of thousands of Brahmins prevalent anywhere else in India. All the officers attired in temple dress, assemble and squat on the floor on a mat spread for them. The Dewan takes his prominent seat. A clerk of the local Taluk Cutcherry steps forward and reads a list of the officers to whom His Highness the Maharaja has allotted work in connection with the cooking, feeding and other functions connected with the grand feast. The Dewan then leads the *Karikkivettu* ceremony by cutting the banana fruits placed in front. The other officers then follow suit. The whole assembly then disperse.

The idea of this function is this. The next day, that is, the Birthday, there is promiscuous feeding of Brahmins or rather *Dvijas* in the temple. The poor of all classes and communities are also fed at the different centres of the capital city. Poor feeding is the most prevalent form of the Birthday celebration in Travancore. It can be stated without any fear of contradiction that there will not be a single starving soul in any part of the State. Local people in all the moffusil stations raise money for this purpose and give a magnificent breakfast to every one who wants, there being no restriction or limitation of any kind. On one occasion a British Resident who had heard of this promiscuous feeding asked the local officer who was responsible for the feeding of the poor how this kind of free feeding on so lavish and unrestricted scale is managed without any difficulty and confusion, whether any ticket is given for admission into the place of feeding, whether several people would not come in for their feed more than once and, if this happens, how it was possible to bring it to a conclusion at all. He was told that there was absolutely no obstruction of any kind, that no ticket was issued, that any one was at liberty to eat any number of times and that those who want are freely given food to last for one or two days. The gentleman was surprised at the

method of dispensing charity and complimented the State and its Ruler and his people on the philanthropic spirit that animates them. The Resident was also told that generally speaking very few would come for a second meal and that they have sufficient sense of self-respect, though they are beggars. It very often happens that those who want are given a sufficient quantity of meals which would last for a day or two more. Such is the form of charity doled out.

The real work of *Karikkivettu* or cutting the vegetable into slices for the various dishes is done by the Nair soldiers of the Travancore State Forces. After this work is completed, it will indeed be an interesting sight to see. The Ramana Matom Hall will be full of small hillocks of these vegetables, each big heap having at its top a piece of palm leaf in which will be written the name of the dish for which it is to be cooked. Generally before these tremendous heaps are removed to the cooking Departments the Dewans used to go round and do a little bit of supervision. On one occasion a Brahmin Dewan who happened to be inquisitive, went round the place and was astonished at the colossal heaps of vegetables and asked whether after all the crowds of eaters were so vast and tremendous as to consume the huge quantity sliced and heaped. He was then taken to the uncommonly big and commodious Kitchen where this gigantic aggregate of eatables was to be cooked and converted into nice dishes. He said that he had not seen cuisine arrangements on this enormous scale anywhere—bell metal cauldrons which are so big and weighty that they could not be removed from the oven and are, therefore, a permanent fixture on the oven. Their depth and other dimensions are so great that each of these may be described as a small tank which, when filled with water, would be enough to drown a lad of about 10 years old. Each vessel is 2½ feet in depth and has a diameter of 6 feet, the cost being Rs 1,450. In fact the

kitchen and kitchen arrangements made for the big feasts have astonished the visitors from the East Coast.

The Durbar.

One of the welcome features of the Birthday Celebrations introduced by His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal is a Durbar, symbolic of old world pageantry and pomp of Eastern potentates now being forgotten. His Highness decided to have this important innovation from 1935 so as to strike the imagination of his people. Such functions do a world of good in a variety of ways. No ruling potentate can do without such ceremonial functions. They form the essence of Royal power, dignity and prestige, and, for the ordinary masses, they afford an excellent opportunity to visualise their Sovereign in his proper position in the mental eye of the people and invest the very idea of Rulership with a sanctity all its own. I remember in this connection something of an admirable lecture delivered at Trivandrum by His Holiness the late Sringeri Swamigal Narasimha Bharati who did us the great honour of a visit to Travancore in 1909 and sanctified the State by his spirituality and the magic of his religious gift. One of the topics His Highness took up for an evening discourse was pomp and secular show so necessary even for an ascetic and clearly explained the reasons which animated the great Vidyaranya Swami to don the earthly pomp and parade the great display of material existence and thus catch the imagination of the populace in the propaganda of his work. If it was the case with an avowedly spiritual leader who had shunned the material world, the more so with one exercising kingly power for the benefit of his subject population. George Eliot, the philosopher novelist, when earnestly pleading for the display of kingly power and pomp says that without these emblems "the vulgar world be conscious of nothing beyond their own petty wants and never rise to the

sense of community in religion and law. There has been no great people without processions and the man who thinks himself too wise to be moved by them to anything but contempt, is like the puddle that was proud of standing alone while the river rushed by".

The Durbar Hall is a magnificent building eminently suited for such a grand political function. The premises of the Hall itself present to the spectator a pageant at once arresting. The Travancore State Forces take up their position with band on the lawns in front of the Hall. Behind them are arranged richly caparisoned and majestic State elephants which afford an imposing sight. The sombre appearance of the Durbar Hall which is situated in the midst of the Public Offices building changes into a fairy land of Golden colour. The colour of the ceiling is really elevating in an aesthetic sense, strikingly impressive in its simple ornateness, dignifying and eminently suited to the classic purpose of the Hall. The Travancore Throne is set at the eastern end and behind it floats the Imperial Banner presented to the then Ruler of Travancore, as a token of personal regard by Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria, Empress of India. Portraits of Travancore and British Royalty adorn the walls. In the midst of the effulgence caused by the electric lights, the massive chandaliers in their candles have their sombre effect and beauty, though rather dusky in the midst of their brighter surrounding. The flood lights that blaze in all their luminous lustre contribute in no small measure to the much needed flambeau that flash to the delight and surprise of the guests. The side decoration is also most effective and impresses the assembly with its splendour. The invitees take their seats, attired in black long coat and afford dignity in dress, matched by the milk white clothes worn by the Nayar and Syrian Christian ladies, a sharp and attractive contrast to the multi-coloured sarees and *pudavais* of the

Tamilian ladies, bejewelled and grandiose in their gold and precious stones. The turban of the gentlemen with its broad and variegated lace is another beauty in itself adding dignity and prestige associated with such political functions. The brilliant Military Uniform of the officers is yet another link in the chain of beauty and splendour.

In the midst of the festive scene of pomp and pageantry His Highness the Elayaraja, the heir to the throne, arrives under the usual military and civil honours. Gloriously attired and wonderfully active and brisk, with a carriage brimming with dignity, every inch of him is princely. By his praiseworthy bearing and exalted appearance His Highness Martanda Varma brings back the memory of his great ancestor, Martanda Varma Maharaja, the conqueror of modern Travancore. He is received by the Dewan and led to his seat to the right of the Throne, the audience showing customary respect.

After the lapse of another five miniutes, is heard the Nagasvaram music announcing the arrival of His Highness the Maharaja in a State Coach drawn by six majestic horses with outriders and postillions. The booming of the cannon and the salute from the State Forces rent the air. Dressed in "Cloth of Gold" with the handsome plumed turban from which hang pendants of diamonds, pearls, sapphires and other precious stones.

Duly received by the Dewan and under Military honours His Highness steps into the Hall, preceded by his personal staff the whole assembly standing. His Highness having taken his seat, the Dewan advances a few steps and conveys to His Highness the respectful felicitations of the people which His Highness suitably acknowledges. Every Durbaree then approaches His Highness, bows and resumes his or her seat.

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If His Highness is inclined to confer honours on any of his subjects—officials or non-officials—such Durbarees are presented to His Highness who performs this ceremony.

A Music party is held and the Durbar is then declared closed.

Religious Ceremonies.

The Birthday opens with a long and tiresome programme of functions—religious, social and secular—which His Highness has to carry out and His Highness goes through all these with admirable patience and with great care and attention to details. His Highness is ready after his morning ablutions by 5 A. M. to preside over the series of religious ceremonies which include *homams, Japams* and *danams* or free gifts of various kinds to Brahmins. When it is about 7 A. M. His Highness proceeds to the temple of Sri Padmanabha Swami, the family Deity of the Royal House of Travancore, attended by the usual temple parapharnalia, for worship.

The State Procession

This is followed by the State procession which, both from a spectacular and artistic point of view, is a magnificent State function and has no parallel anywhere else. While in Mysore, Baroda and other Indian States the Ruler mounts an animal for the procession, in Travancore it is the age-old classic palanquin which is used as the *Vahanam* or conveyance for His Highness.

The important fact that His Highness the Maharaja is the central figure adds special significance to it and invests it with a sacrosanct atmosphere. People—men, women and children—from far and near in the State assemble in Trivandrum for *darsan* of their *Ponnuthampuran* and occupy all positions of advantage to witness this procession and personally offer their tribute of reverence, because, according to

Hindu conception, their Sovereign is the vice-regent of God on earth. The whole procession route round the Palace in the Fort is one long line of simple and effective decorations—palm leaf, oleander, plantain bunches in their gold and green, —and every house front is as gay as a marriage Pandal bedecked with flags, banners and *thoranams* and arches which are all real works of art, attracting attention and showing the artistic sense of ihe average Travancorean.

The commencement of the procession is signalised by the salute of the Artillery and the three volleys *few-de-joie* fired by the Infantry of the Travancore State Forces. At the head of this State Procession is the beautifully caparisoned elephant with a drum and flag presentad by the Nawab of the Carnatic in olden times when the political relations between Travancore and this potentate were cordial and friendly. The Body Guard of His Highness the Maharaja lead this long pageant. The smart looking Infantry in their white uniform march in single file, swinging their arm. The Hindu officers headed by the Dewan walk in their temple dress, in their attire of their *soman* or *mundu* with another piece to cover their bare body. The Palace horses attractively dressed are then led by their syces and look wonderfully brisk in their rythmic movements. The Palace swars in their archaic dress with the old lances, spears, &c. are the next link in the State procession. In the middle of the procession are two Palace employees who scatter betel and fried grain all along. The Palace pipers forming the Nagaswaram music come next. We next see the age-old State palanquin borne by men on their shoulders. This is a form of conveyance used in ancient India on State occasions. The particular palanquin is handed down to successive Rulers and is very sacred not only because of its antiquity but also because of the exquisite ivory carving all round done with a delicacy and finish which modern workers have to admire. The artistic

work delineated here on all sides is a study in itself for art lovers. The gold embroidery done with a mixture of velvet in different colours and its intricate ornamentation in various styles would attract attention from any craftsman of modern days. The hangings of drapery in suitable and appropriate distances form another pattern of the handiwork of the artist who has his own place in embellishments of this nature. The lace and golden flowered canopy of green velvet affords very good protection from the growing heat of the rising sun. His Highness the Maharaja is not burdened with jewellry but has only a necklace of brilliant stones adorning his breast, shining in the rays of the morning sun. On the crown of his head is the unadorned velvet cap, used by His Highness' ancestors and, therefore, hallowed by every Ruler before placing it on his head. The wearing apparel spotlessly white reaches up to hip, the rest of the body being uncovered. The white thin streak of *vibhudi* line which every Hindu puts on when going to the temple is hardly distinguishable from the colour of His Highness' body. Thus equipped is the Royal occupant of the palanquin gracefully reclining on the pillow behind supported on either side by equally soft cushions of a particular make. As the procession gracefully proceeds, there arise from the enthusiastic crowds of spectators cheers and other demonstrations of loyal rejoicings which are gracefully acknowledged by His Highness. This is one of the few occassions when the classes and masses of all communities, irrespective of rank or position, religion or creed, feast their eyes with a sight of their *Ponnuthampuran* and worship him in the accustomed manner. The palanquin stops at the front door of the various temples *en route* when His Highness alights and worships the idol and receives *prasadam* from the *poojari*. His Highness is not only the father of his people from a secular point of view but is also the Defender of Hinduism in which capac ity there are certain duties and customs enjoined on him. These His

Highness carries out with scrupulous regard and with a true sense of piety. By ten of the clock the procession returns to the Palace. There is an customary ceremony performed here. A black lamb is taken round His Highness thrice. His Highness then goes to the veranda upstairs and scatters natural flowers mixed with those made of gold and silver amidst the waiting crowds below who scramble for them and treasure these trinkets as mementoes of the memorable occasion. His Highness then goes for his breakfast.

The Feast.

The feast in the *Agrasala* or feeding house attached to the temple of Sri Padmanabha Swami is a tremendous affair and is conducted on a scale not found anywhere on the globe and hence deserves a few words of explanation. The motto of the Royal House of Travancore as engraved in the Government *Gazette* or other State documents is "Charity our Household Divinity". The Sanskrit word is "Dharma". Whether this Sanskrit word is correctly translated or interpreted or not, the word "Charity" is generally supposed to be one of the interpretations of its Sanskrit original and is considered a virtue. The practical application under which thousands of Brahmins are fed in State institutions lends support to the idea of giving food to those who need it, especially to Brahmins which, according to Hindu texts, is treated as a virtuous act enjoined on all — prince or peasant. Acting on this long existing practice, the Travancore Maharajas have been feeding Brahmins on a decent scale and, on festive occasions like the Sovereign's Birthday, it was supposed to be an act of *punnyam* (good act) to feed Brahmins and also the poor of the other communities. As the Brahmin feeding was considered more important and, as the number to be benefited is larger than that of other communities, special arrangements have had to be made for carrying out this object in the shape of the dining hall, kitchen, provisions, supervision, &c., &c.

The Dining Hall.

The *Agrasala* where this feeding of Brahmins takes place is a colossal stone structure which has no parallel anywhere else in the world. It is rectangular in shape and is constructed round the main temple of Sri Padmanabha Swami. It is admired not only for its architectural work but also for the accommodation it provides for the simultaneous feeding of thousands of people. The two sides are each length is 421 and the breadth 324. 8," the breadth and height of the structnre being 23 4 and 18' respectively. The total number of pillars is 360. The surface area is 1,36,684 2/3 square feet which is 3 acres and 14 cents nearly.

The granite pillar is filled with stone carving. In addition to this spacious dining hall there are two other halls fabulously big where also the feeding takes place. At a modest calculation the number of Brahmins and other Devijas fed in this stupendous dinning hall may be put down as 21,000.

In addition to this is the feeding of the poor of all classes which is conducted by the officers in the different corners of the city of Trivandrum.

In the evening His Highness repeats the visit to the various temples. A display of pyrotechnics concludes the celebration.

On a day fixed His Highness gives a State Banquet to the higher officials and the European residents of the State who are specially invited for the occasion.

Among other important functions is a Garden Party given by the Dewan at his official residence, "Bhaktivilas"

A special feature of the Birthday Week is the presence of a few distinguished persons from British India who are invited and are treated as State Guests during the period of stay here. As the Hindu religious festivals of *Deepali* and

Dasara also intervence about the Birthday of His Highness, the crowds are generally very large. The season too is pleasant and enjoyable and hence this is the tourist season in Travancore where Nature smiles and appears to extend her condial greetings to all visitors who wish to participate in the joyful events of the festive season.

CHAPTER XI

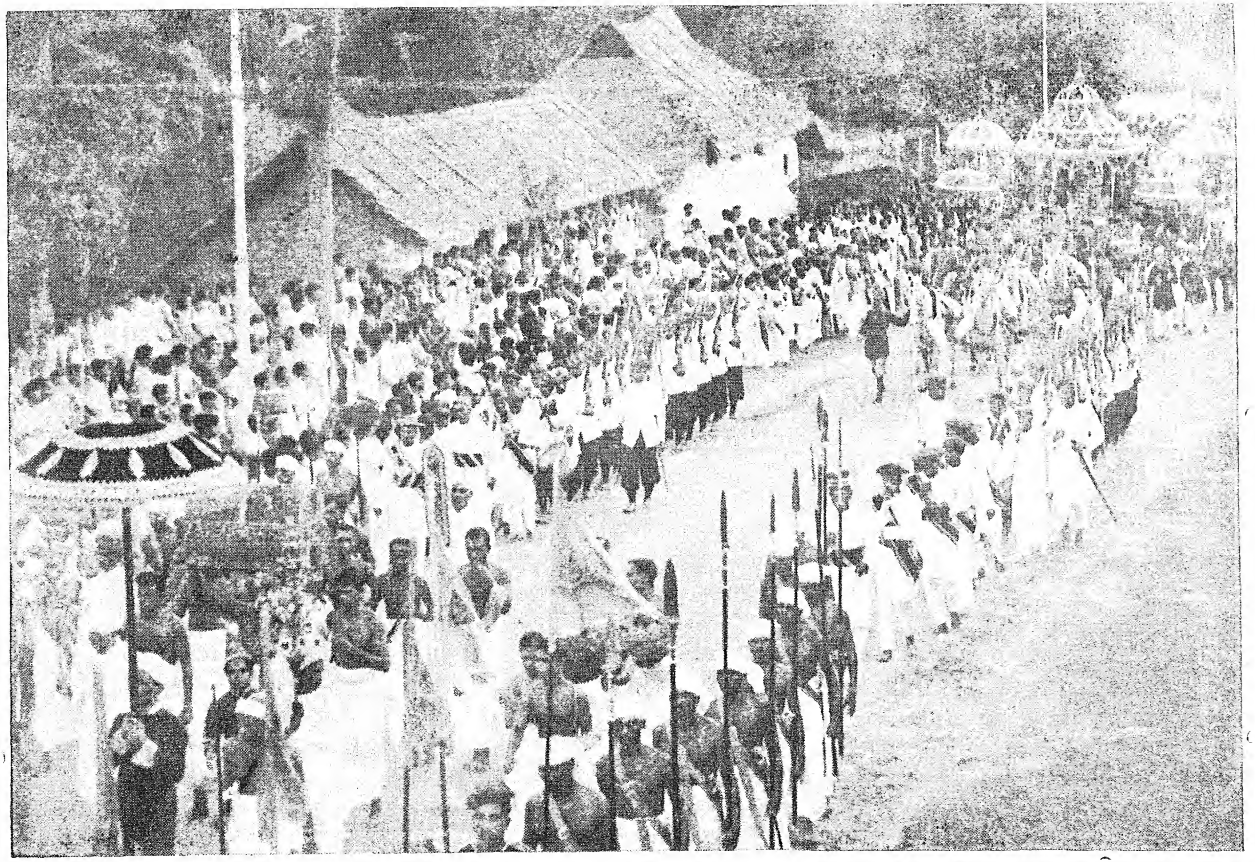
NAVARATRI (DASARA) IN TRAVANCORE

"Everyone should worship Chandika, the destroyer of the demons Chanda and Munda, in the month of Bhadra".—BHAVISHYAPURANA.

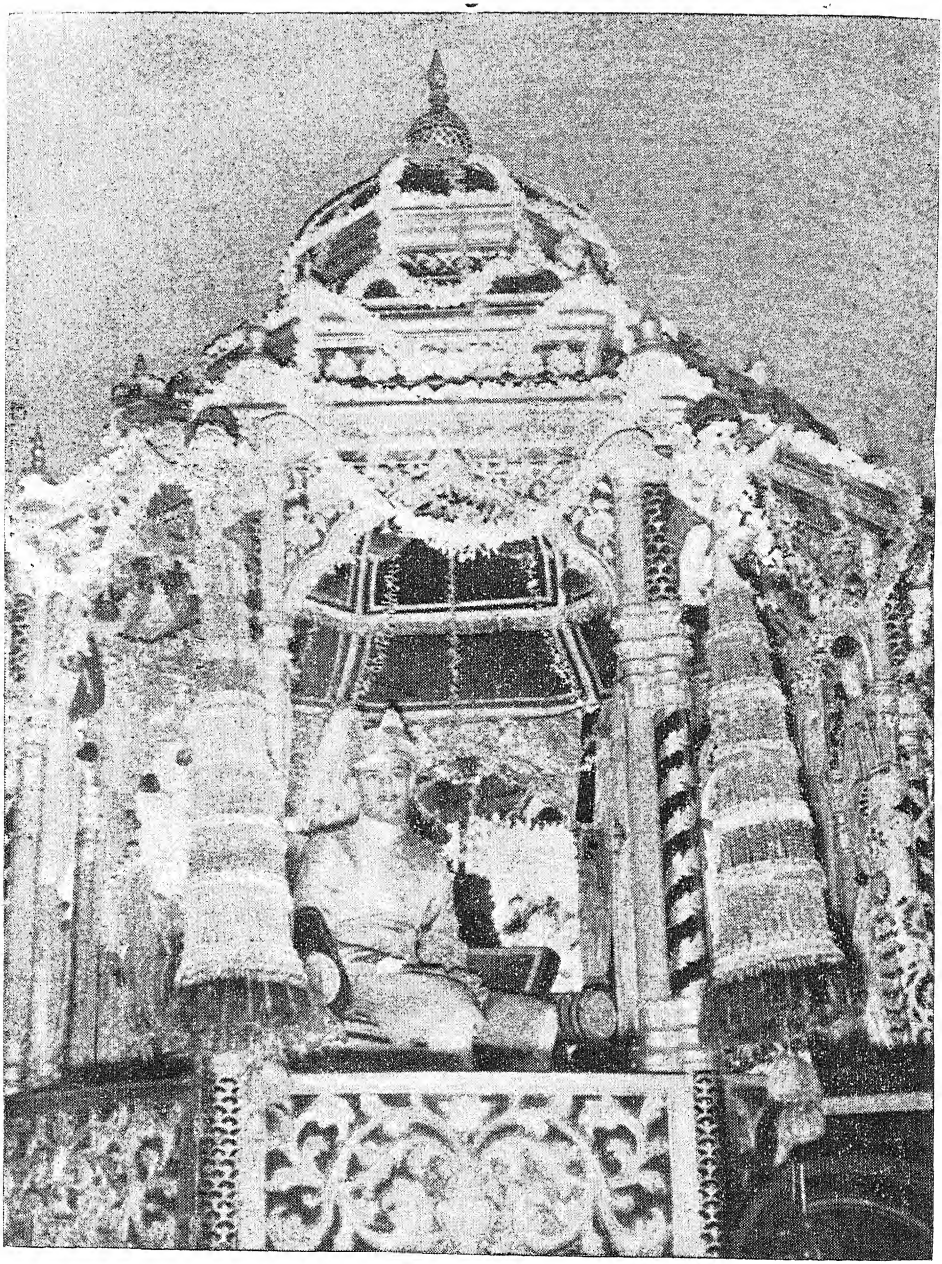
"Festivals, when duly observed, attach men to the civil and religious institutions of their country; it is an evil, therefore, when they fall into disuse."—SOUTHEY.

Different tourists to Travancore have described this State under different captions, each viewing the State from the angle of vision which appeals to him most. Thus it comes about that our country is called "The Land of Charity," "The Land of Temples," "The Land of Festivals," etc. The last epithet will suit us for our present purpose. I was told once by a distinguished Hindu official whose services had been lent to the State for a short period that this was a "Land of Festivals." 'of course, Hindu, on account of the large number of Hindu holidays the State officers were then enjoying. Whether or not this remark is applicable to this admittedly Hindu State in a sinister sense (if it was ever meant) or whether there are not a larger number of Hindu holidays in other States distinctly Hindu are questions the consideration of which is not germane at present. Every Hindu knows and realises that the *Navaratri* is an important religious festival which is celebrated by both the Government and the people alike. That it has religious as well as festival aspects will be evident from the fact that the daily programme of its observance includes worship and other functions in temples and also the social side of its enjoyment.

With these prefatory words let us examine a little the religious or philosophical side of the festival celebrated all over India—Indian States as well as British Provinces. I have witnessed the Dasara celebrations in a few prominent States, but nowhere does it approach the standard or scale on which it is observed in Mysore. The pomp, grandeur magnificence, pageantry, ostentation and stateliness observable in Mysore are peculiarly Mysorean and are due to historical as well as to local causes. It is well known that the festival of Dasara is closely connected with *Navaratri* being in fact the tenth and last day following the *Navaratri* (nine nights.) The whole period of ten days is called *Dasara*, the first nine days being collectively styled the *Navaratri* or the nine nights, during which the main religious ceremonies in honour of the Goddess Durga, to whom the whole period is dedicated, are performed. These ceremonies are generally carried out only *after nightfall* each day. It is on account of this fact that the festival is called *Navaratri* or the nine nights. From these it will be seen that the *Dasara* forms one continuous feast of ten days, dedicated to the worship of Durga and falling on the first days of the month of *Asvini*. The word 'Dasara' is supposed to be a corruption of 'Dasa-hara,' meaning the festival that removes the ten (sins); but more probably it signifies the festival that lasts for ten days. It comes just at the close of winter on the eve of the season when, in ancient times, Hindu rulers started on their career of conquest. They worshipped the mother Goddess in the forms of Durga, the conqueror, and Sarasvati, the enlightener. Sri Rama is believed to have marched against Ravana on the Vijayadasami day. Originally only Durga was worshipped; the worship of Sarasvati on the ninth day came in later. Weapons of war and codices of literature, sacred and profane, were placed at the feet of the Goddess who was worshipped for nine days, and then taken back in the belief that victory and wisdom would ensue to the worshipper thereby.



Navaratri (or Dasara) Procession



Ratham Procession

Nine Saktis or forces of the Mother Goddess are recognised, and they are given the names of (1) Kumari, (2) Trimurti, (3) Kalyani, (4) Rohini, (5) Kalika, (6) Chandika, (7) Sambhavi, (8) Durga, and (9) Subhadra, and worshipped in the forms of virgins. The details of the worship of these Saktis from the first day of the *Navaratri* onwards are specified in the *Devibhagavata*. It will be seen from this that the worship of Durga falls on the eighth day. The worship on the ninth day now goes also by the name of *Sarasvatipuja*. Durga and Saraswati are worshipped. The object of celebrating these two "nine day" festivals is, according to Hindu belief, to ward off the evils arising from sickness, which usually prevails during these two seasons of the year. Both kings and their subjects are enjoined to perform certain propitiatory ceremonies to Goddess Durga or to Vishnu as the case may be, as it is believed that the proper carrying out of these would not only ensure protection and immunity from the anticipated diseases but also bring prosperity to the people.

So far as its celebration in Travancore is concerned, the belief is current here also that *Navaratri* commemorates the victory achieved by Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, the monster whose favourite riding animal was *Mahisha* or buffalo. There is a legend that this demon was causing untold havoc and misery to mankind and was killed at Mysore (originally *Mahish ur* or Maisur). In Travancore the ceremony commences from *Prathama* and ends with *Navami* in the bright half of the month, Purattasi. As the *puja* continues to the next morning, i. e., *Dasami* also, the number of ceremonial days comes to ten. Of the ten days, *Durgashtami*, *Mahanavami* and *Vijayadasami* are comparatively more important. (It is on account of the prominence given to Durgashtami that the festival is called Durgapuja in Northern India). It is not known when this festival began to be first celebrated in Travancore, but it is unquestionable that it has a very

respectable antiquity in this State, as it is more or less contemporaneous with the origin and history of the Royal House itself. Though the early State archives are silent as to the details and methods of celebration in the pre-Padmnabhapuram era, there is enough reliable information from the period when Padmanabhapuram became the capital of the State. For, there is a shrine in the old Padmanabhapuram Palace which is dedicated to Goddess Sarasvati. This portion of the Palace building is called *Tevarakkettu* (or building for worship) in front of which there is a beautiful and magnificent Hall which even today is the admiration of architects and sculptors. It is called the *Navaratri* Mantapam. It is a magnificent stone-structure which even to-day stands as the invulnerable specimen of the handiwork of the age-old Travancorean craftsman whose sense of modesty and love of work were so honourably absorbing that he has deliberately omitted his name being imprinted on it. The majestic pillars, tall and stately, which support the roof are unexampled specimens of the stone-mason's art, not found anywhere else in the State. These pillars contain the figures of gods and goddesses of the Hindu mythology depicted on a style and design which till this day have not had their counterpart attempted by any one. The exquisite carvings are a marvel in delicacy of touch and finish. As is usual with all forms of stone architecture whether in temples or other buildings, the top portion which contains the best and the finest carving is the very palace of his art and it would appear that the most resourceful portion of his brain is reflected in these carvings. At one end of the Mantapa is the small temple dedicated to Sarasvati. Struck with the artistic beauty and excellence of the image of Sarasvati and moved by a desire to revivify and restore the old art of the mason's hand Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi D. Litt, ordered a replica of this idol to be made in wood and it is placed there

In the old days also the celebration continued for nine days in right royal style. That the celebration was witnessed by the members of the Royal Household is attested by the fact that there were separate rooms for the Ranis who witnessed the celebration in the Mantapam through the apertures in the carved wooden screens. These rooms are still there in the old Palace. The Ruler used to have his seat in the balcony. It was here, in this temple of art, that *Navaratri* was celebrated during the reign of His Highness Maharaja Martanda Varma, the maker of Modern Travancore. The *Ayudhabhyasa* which now takes place at Pujappura in Trivandrum on the procession day also had its counterpart under the name of *Ampuchartu* which was conducted with all the parapharnalia of State at Villukiri, a village a few miles from Padmanabhapuram. There is a tradition that this Sarasvati image in the *Tevarakettu* in the Padmanabhapuram Palace was at one time the patron deity of a former Maharaja of Travancore, whose capital was Valliyur in the neighbouring Tinnevelly District.

When, however, the old capital was removed from Padmanabhapuram to Trivandrum about 150 years ago, the venue of *Navaratri* celebration was also changed to the modern capital, although occasionaly the festival used to be celebrated in Padmanabhapuram and Mavelikara also. As the present-day celebration in Trivandrum coincides almost with the Birthday of His Highness the present Maharaja Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal and the commencement of the half-yearly (Alpasi) *Utsavam* in the temple of Sri Padmanabha Svami, it is the busiest part of the year and also the most enjoyable season as the weather conditions are perfect and the agricultural season prosperous.

The commencement of the *Navaratri* festival is a simple affair and is a State function. On the fixed and auspicious day a time is fixed by the Palace Dikshitar or Priest. All

Hindu Officers headed by the Dewan, assemble at the particular place in front of the Pakatasala, a portion of the Palace. Here there is an ancient shrine. His Highness the Maharaja arrives in State in temple dress, accompanied by his brother. The image of Sarasvati is then placed in this temple with all religious ceremonies and formalities. At the feet of the Goddess are placed some written palm-leaf manuscripts symbolic of the cultural aspect of the *Navaratri* celebration and the Royal Sword—the tell-tale sword which Martanda Varma Maharaja used in his conquest and consolidation of Travancore—and a few other weapons of warfare, indicative of the martial spirit of the Travancore Rulers. His Highness worships Sarasvati and the *granthas* and the implements of war and returns. Every day both in the morning and evening His Highness goes to the temple, accompanied by the Dewan and other Hindu officers.

In the course of this festival *Nagasvaram* and other forms of music receive encouragement, but the most important features are musical entertainments and the *Vidvatsadas*. As, under a rotation system, distinguished and eminent musicians from outside—both vocalists and instrumentalists—are got down for each occasion—the Birthday, *Navaratri* and other Palace functions of importance—there is not a Sangitavidvan who has not had his due share of patronage at the hands of His Highness. His Highness the Maharaja, himself a fairly good vocalist with a fine and rich voice, Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi, an accomplished musician and an expert Veena player, Her Highness Kartika Tirunal, the First Princess, reputed as a violinist and His Highness the Elaya Raja who takes a lively interest in all these functions, attend the temple for worship and enjoy the musical entertainments at night every day and thus afford inspiration and encouragement to the musicians while the Dewan and other officials are also present for the musical treat.

The *Vidvatsadas* or conference of Sanskrit scholars is an important institution intended to encourage and promote Sanskrit culture in the State. That it is an ancient institution will be seen from the fact that its founder was His Highness Kartika Tirunal Maharaja whose glorious reign from 1758 to 1798 has left a splendid and lengthy record of forty years full of remarkable achievements as a hard and courageous fighter of battles, a consummate statesman and a distinguished administrator of rare powers of vision and far-sightedness. He was also the author of *Balarama Bharata*, several *Kathakalis* in Malayalam, a reputed scholar and poet and also a well-known and liberal patron of arts and letters, besides being an expert in music and dancing. It is, therefore, no wonder that he conceived the idea of organising a *Vidvatsadas* or a conference of Sanskrit Scholars in connection with the *Navaratri* festival when Sarasvati or Goddess of Learning is worshiped. Pantalam Subrahmanya Sastri, the well-known Vaiyakarana, appears to have been the *Adhyaksha* or President of the *Sadas* during the yearly years of its organisation. This *Sadas* was thoroughly reorganised and considerably popularised by His Highness Svati Tirunal Maharaja (1829-47), the great poet, musician and composer and since then the *Sadas* has been held without intermission year after year, and some of the greatest scholars of Travancore like Anantarama Sastri, Elathur Ramaswami Sastri, Subba Dikshitar and Dr. T. Ganapathi Sastri, have guided its deliberations from time to time, making it an excellent agency for the advancement of Sanskrit culture in many branches. His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja, himself a keen and earnest student of Sanskrit, attends the *Sadas*. Convinced of the great benefits it can confer for nurturing the race of Sanskrit Pandits and keeping aglow the lamp of Sanskrit learning which was burning brilliantly at the courts of the Rulers of Travancore for centuries, His Highness' desire is to trim this

lamp and make it brighter. When His Highness was thinking of the ways and means of carrying out his cherished desire, His Highness was fortunate in securing the valuable services of his Dewan Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, himself a distinguished Sanskrit scholar, whose artistic and cultural bent of mind came to His Highness' help. His idea of improving the usefulness of the *Sadas* received full support from his Sovereign Master. Additional grants of money were sanctioned in 1939 for the encouragement of Pandits who might take part in the discussions. Accordingly, some distinguished Pandits from outside were invited to Trivandrum. They were glad to respond to the call coming from such high quarters and from a Ruler who evinced commendable enthusiasm and interest in the promotion of Sanskrit learning. They took part in the debates with great zest. Six Gold Medals were awarded by His Highness the Maharaja in addition to money presents and 23 Pandits were recepients of Royal recognition. In 1940 still larger grants were sanctioned by His Highness and 8 Gold Medals and special money awards were given to 27 Pandits the standard of whose literary culture and Sanskrit lore was distinctly on a superior level. They were all, under Royal command, presented to His Highness by Rao Sahib Mahakavi Ullur S. Parameśvara Aiyar whose erudition and Sanskrit lore and whose position as a poet in Sanskrit and Malayalam have been recognised and rewarded by both Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Travancore and Cochin by conferring on him the title of *Mahakavi* (Great poet) and other rewards. It may also be mentioned here that Mr. Parameswara Aiyar held a high and responsible position in the service of the State. He was in charge of the arrangements for this *Sadas*. Some of those who attended the last year's *Sadas* from outside the State were Pandits of repute, from Bangalore, Mylapore, Madras, Kallitakkurichi, etc. The

subjects covered by the discussions were Vyakarana, Purvamimamsa, Nyaya, Vedanta, Alamkara, Sahitya, Jyotisha and Ayurveda. About 70 Pandits attended the *Sadas* last year. The Pandits from outside were all State guests.

On the tenth day is the State Procession which is a magnificent and imposing function witnessed by thousands of persons from all over the State and even outside. The route of the procession which is the main road from the Palace inside the Fort to Pujappura is three miles long. On the evening of the occasion it is a continuous line of gorgeous and picturesque decorations in which the stately palm-leaf and the attractive golden coloured plantain fruits take a prominent part. The spectacular effect is indeed very impressive, the men in their holiday attire and the women dressed in their multicoloured *saris* providing a study in colours and diversity in jewelry. His Highness starts from the Karuveliappura Malika in front of the Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple, at about 4-30 P. M. The State Forces composed of Infantry and Cavalry forming His Highness', Body Guard lead the procession in their comely uniform. The unmounted swars with their lances, spears, etc., walk on either side and form a graceful entourage in all the processions in the State. The favourite horses in the Palace are beautifully dressed and decorated and form a very attractive sight to the spectators. Right in the centre are two Palace employees who scatter all the way betel leaves and fried grain. The Palace pipers playing Nagasvaram are the next link in the procession, followed by the Ratham, a form of State Coach not found in any other State in India. It is a wooden structure octagonal in shape after the model of the Ratham described in the Hindu Epic of Mahabharata as used by Sri Krishna in the battle of Kurukshetra. This was constructed during the reign of Maharaja Sri Swati Tirunal, the famous poet, musician and composer. It is heavily built and

the decoration of it is magnificent, consisting, as it does, of beautiful carving of delicate workmanship. The exquisite embroidery work in gold in the hangings is matchless in the intricacy of its drapery, in the delicacy of its artistic work, variegated in design and wonderful in patterns of various kinds. His Highness the Maharaja dressed in gorgeous style and resplendently bejewelled, is seated in this Ratham. Throughout the procession His Highness receives the joyous and enthusiastic greetings of his people. At the end of the procession whose destination is Poojappura, His Highness alights from the Ratham, dons the temple dress and goes to the small artificial grove of greenery and performs his *Ayudhabhyasa* by piercing the tender cocoanut kept there with his lance and afterwards worships Sarasvathi in the temporary temple improvised and returns to the Palace. On arrival at the Karuvelappura Palace (whence the procession began) His Highness goes up to the veranda and scatters natural as well as artificial flowers made of gold and silver mixed with coins. These are picked up by the rabble below who scramble like school-boys to get hold of one these mementoes of this memorable occasion. A description of the procession is attempted here because some of the items to which reference is made are a unique feature in the State processions of Travancore.

PART II.



SACHIVOTTAMA Dr. SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D.,
DEWAN OF TRAVANCORE.

MODERN TRAVANCORE

Story of a Decade's Progress

"I consider it a privilege thus to become associated with the memorial which would bear testimony for all time to the arresting personality of a sagacious ruler. Not only the nobility and gentry of this great State of Travancore but many far away are sensible to the great work that has been done in this State under the inspiration and aegis of His Highness. Young though he is in years, His Highness' reign has already become a memorable one during which various important measures have been introduced in Travancore. The record of His Highness' beneficent reign co-exists with a charm of manners that wins friends and a simplicity of life that others may well emulate as well as a watchfulness for his subjects' welfare and indefatigable devotion to duty." HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF BIKANIR.

These words of appreciation spoken on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone for the pedestal of the statue of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja of Travancore which now adorns the City of Trivandrum, capital of the State, and which is a grateful peoples' tribute to His Highness' statesmanship, nobility of character and earnest solicitude for the welfare and happiness—both secular and religious—of all classes of his subjects without distinction of caste, status or position in life, have their own weight and significance, as they come from a benevolent and illustrious Ruler who has more than fifty years of experience in state-craft and who is acknowledged as a distinguished and highly

respected member of the Princely Order in India and occupies an honoured place in the Indian Empire.

In the following few pages an attempt will be made to review the progress made during the past decade. When on the 6th November, 1931, His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal was invested with Ruling Powers, His Highness said that he took "up the reins of a settled and well ordered Government, not in a spirit of vain glory or self-satisfaction but full of an abiding sense of the responsibility entailed by the magnificent heritage." His Highness also added that "it is a very great trust which has been transmitted to me and I realise that that trust will not be well discharged except to the extent that I am able to promote the peace, contentment and prosperity of my subjects." His Highness further observed with a high sense of relief and internal satisfaction that "it is a consolation and a great privilege that in my task I shall have the inestimable advantage of the watchful solicitude and the unparallelled devotion of my mother to whom I owe more than I can express in words." Noble words these which clearly indicate not only the deep sense of responsibility on His Highness' part but also the divine virtue of modesty with which he entered on his great task. Young and inexperienced as he was, His Highness duly realised the immensity of the difficulties which had to be got over. In the first place, the country had come under the full grip of the economic distress prevalent all over the world due to the after effects of the Great War of 1914—1919. This was reflected in the trade returns of the State which, it must be admitted, is not a negligible factor in the material prosperity of the people. Though the total trade of the State had shrunk in value from Rs. 17·31 lakhs in 1106 M. E. to Rs. 14·08 lakhs in 1109 M. E., it slowly rose and reached the original level in 1115 M. E. Similarly, the export trade also gave room for anxiety. From Rs. 9·65 lakhs in 1106 M. E. it went down to Rs. 7·79 lakhs in 1109 M. E. but soon regained its normal position in 1115

M. E. The balance of trade also showed a similar swing, which, it was discovered, was only temporary. In spite of all this there was great need for careful handling of the situation and for the cautious steering of the ship of State, because the financial position of the State had been affected by this decline in the trade and commerce of the State. A detailed reference to this aspect will be made later on. There was, however, a silver lining in this cloud which was a fair indication of the real condition of the financial staying power of the people and that was their deposit in the Savings Bank Account which showed no diminution but a higher tendency which was an encouraging feature. In 1106 the deposit amount was Rs. 78·76 lakhs which went on increasing year by year until the figure of Rs. 193·51 lakhs was reached in 1114. There was the same indication of prosperity as regards the Life Insurance premium with Government which went up from Rs. 3·97 lakhs in 1106 to Rs. 10·05 lakhs in 1114, every year recording a higher figure than the preceding one. From these figures it will be seen that, though the economic blizzard did not affect the State to the extent feared, there was need for prompt and efficient steps to be taken. This was recognised by His Highness himself who shrewdly observed in the course of his installation speech that "the position is still fraught with anxiety." Hardly had the country begun to enjoy the full fruits of the benevolent measures adopted by His Highness, when two discouraging features presented themselves for immediate consideration and solution, namely, the War and the political situation, at the simultaneous occurrence of which any heart less brave and less resourceful would have quailed. At this critical juncture His Highness the Maharaja and the country were fortunate enough to have at the head of the administration a proved and seasoned statesman of extraordinary abilities, vast experience, indomitable courage and a noble and high sense of patriotism—one who had rendered lasting and valuable service in a wider field in the Indian Empire under similar conditions of work—

one whose intrepid capacity to take wise and decisive action and face obstacles His Highness could readily harness—Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., the present Dewan of Travancore. The result was that both these extraordinary preoccupations were ably and successfully confronted. Every one knows how readily and willingly Travancore came forward under the leadership of His Highness to do its bit for the war without causing any serious dislocation of the financial resources of the State or its people. As regards the political situation no one even expected that such a phenomenon would occur within the State and from the State subjects. The high percentage of literary or bookish education and the large number of educated unemployed in the State are, no doubt, responsible for the exhibition of political antics to which the State has not been accustomed. The history of the political institutions in the State will clearly show that they owe their existence to the voluntary generosity of the Rulers and to their anxious desire to take their people into their confidence in all matters concerning their welfare and happiness. Thus they were deemed as priceless gifts granted unasked and at a time when no other Indian State had even thought of them. Even today the standard of representative or democratic form of Government which we enjoy in Travancore is much higher than that which obtains in any other State. It has been the good fortune of the writer to listen, in the course of his travels in Northern India—both British Provinces and Indian States—to high praise from persons (who have never seen Travancore) who have complimented the people on the measure of constitutional reforms initiated and carried out in the State. His highness the late Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, when he came here on a visit in 1915 and had occasion to travel right across the State from the Northen frontier to Cape Comorin, was surprised as, he told the writer, to see such a high level of progress all round. When such has

been the record established after years of benevolent and progressive rule, is it not culpable to condemn the administration and hold it up for ridicule outside the State? Yet this has been the persistent endeavour of a few people who, having started a body called 'State Congress', have also been carrying on agitation for what they called "Responsible Government." This agitation was based on entirely wrong ideals and ideas which gained currency in British India among a certain section of red-hot politicians between whom and Travancoreans there was nothing common. The evil consequences of this agitation were in inverse ratio to their utter inapplicability to this State. Public meetings were held and open defiance of constituted authority was preached with the result that subversive and disloyal activities gained wider currency. Strikes of labourers, boatmen and students were engineered. All sorts of violence such as no-tax campaign, destruction of motor cars of Government officers, passenger buses of the Transport Department, burning of Government property such as school and other buildings, were indulged in by the members of the State Congress. The climax was reached when acts of violence on a large scale were committed in certain villages and the impression was sought to be created in rural areas that the State Congress was preparing to set up a rival Government. No sensible Government could tolerate for a moment such a manifestly rebellious attitude on the part of any section of the people. A special protective staff was engaged to suppress, with a strong hand, these decidedly disloyal movements. Several arrests were made in the different parts of the State and prosecutions started. It was a hard time for the Police and the Magistracy. The seriousness of the situation created by the State Congress would be easily understood when it is stated that 340 persons were convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The Executive Government rose to the full height demanded of it. Whenever necessary, the services of the military were utilised to suppress riots

and restore peace, but at a heavy expenditure of the taxpayers' money which the State Congressites have to note. The infection of this disease in the body politique of the State caused a serious disturbance in the day-to-day activities and normal work of the Government whose progressive pace received a rude setback. It is, however, a matter for sincere satisfaction to all well wishers of the State that this temporary ebullition of a small section of the misguided people was put down with firmness and strength by Government and with the hearty and enthusiastic co-operation and help of the people. All these incidents of an ephemeral nature only showed that the heart of Travancore was perfectly sound and could be safely depended upon whenever the co-operation and help of the people are required by Government in the initiation and prosecution of schemes and measures of public utility.

Finance

The subject of finance is technical and is not so easy for a layman to handle. But the aspect from which it is proposed to be dealt with here is its relation to public administration where it has necessarily to play its important part. There is no form or system of administration—monarchical, representative, democratic or even Dictatorship—in which finance does not occupy the foremost place. John Bright, the great Parliamentarian and orator of England, once asked:—

> "Where was there a bad Government whose finances were in good order? Where was there a really good Government whose finances were in bad order? Is there a better test in the long run of the condition of a people and the merits of a Government than the state of its finance?"

Coming nearer home, the same sentiment was expressed by a distinguished Finance Member of the Government of India, Sir John Wilson, in these words:—

> "Finance is not mere arithmetic; it is a great policy. Without sound finance, no sound Government is possible; without sound Government, no sound finance is possible."

This essential principle in administration was, for a long time, the guiding rule of action in the financial adjustments of the State. Long before the Indian Mutiny of 1857 Travancore had its settled form of Government with its State budgets, financial memoranda and a set of rules to regulate its income and expenditure, control its financial affairs and plan its commitments on a well understood basis. More than four and a half decades ago Mr. Shungrasubbier C. I. E., who was Dewan of Travancore, observed in one of his State Administration Reports thus :—

> "Having regard to the limited resources of the State and the conditions under which it has to work, the soundness of its financial policy and the possibilities which that policy implies lie in recognising the important principle of not merely maintaining an equilibrium between the year's income and expenditure, but of securing a margin, however small, on the right side of the account. His Highness' Government are fully sensible of their responsibilities in strictly following this principle as the true guide in controlling public expenditure."

Broadly speaking, this is the principle which has been followed in the past in husbanding the resources of the State and in controlling its income and expenditure. The Finance Department which has been presided over by able financiers and experienced Account Officers has always kept in view what Bastable has stated, viz., that "the safest rule for practice is that which lays down the expediency of estimating for a moderate surplus." The accumulated surpluses of years were spent on reproductive works like the Kodayar Irrigation Project and have thus fructified in the pockets of the people. This principle has recieved support from so able, experienced and up-to-date an administrator as Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., who, in the course of his Budget statement to the members of the legislature on the 23rd July 1938, observed thus :—

"The policy of this Government is not to allow Government balances to accumulate for their own sake but to utilise them as far as possible in productive works and not to allow them to fetch little or no interest."

The State has, during the past decade, spent Rs. 457·15 lakhs on capital works such as the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Works, the Railway, Telephone, the Clay Refining Factory, and other works. Out of this total expenditure, only a sum of Rs. 138·94 lakhs was met from borrowed funds and the balance was entirely from surplus funds of the State. The Financial Secretary has stated that "the general test of productivity in the case of capital works is whether or not they yield on an average a net return of not less than 5 per cent to Government on the capital invested after meeting the maintenance and interest charges." But he adds "that no scheme yielded during the year a net revenue of over 5 per cent on the capital invested." This is not surprising in view of the present condition of the money market everywhere. This was the point the Dewan had in mind when he observed with the true instinct of a financier "that the utmost that we can get for our balances, if kept in cash, is not more than two per cent. In certain banks it is less than two per cent and in certain other banks it is two per cent or at the most 2½ per cent. We cannot generally get more than two per cent for our monies by investment in banks. Therefore, it is a great pity and a great mistake to keep our monies locked up without putting them into remunerative schemes wherefrom we may derive more advantageous results."

Coming now to a review of the normal income and expenditure for the past decade, it will be seen that the revenue in 1105 M. E. was 247·23 lakhs. In the year following there was not any substantial variation in receipts. But the year showed a heavy deficit of Rs. 12·23 lakhs, the first deficit since 1097 M. E. This was brought about by the combined effect of a fall in revenue due to economic depression coupled with certain special items of expenditure.

The Government, having already anticipated a fall in revenue due to signs of the coming depression, appointed a Retrenchment Committee to investigate and report on the possibilities of retrenchments in expenditure. On the Committee's advice the Government also effected retrenchments on expenditure with the result that it was possible for them to keep down expenditure during the years 1107 and 1108 within the revenue receipts of those years. But in the succeeding years the activities of the State were much enlarged and various public utility schemes were taken in hand which brought about small deficits in the three succeeding years. But, as a result of precautionary measures taken by Government and the careful husbanding of the finances of the State, it was possible to keep the deficits at a minimum in those years. In 1112 there was a spurt in the revenue which enabled Government to open a new Revenue Reserve Fund with an initial deposit of Rs. 12 lakhs out of the revenue receipts of the year and also to close the transactions of the year with a net revenue surplus of Rs. 2·79 lakhs. But the next year saw a small deficit of Rs. 1·72 lakhs which was due to larger grants distributed to several nation-building departments. The year 1114 saw the highest revenue ever reached in the annals of the State—Rs. 255·96 lakhs.

A glance at the expenditure side for the past ten years will reveal that it has been a difficult task for the Finance Department to make the necessary adjustments in such a way as to secure a wide margin of surplus. The main items which were responsible for a violent swinging of the financial pendulum on the wrong side of the account were political disturbances, special ceremonial functions, special grants to the infant University and visits of high personages.

The decade opened happily with a handsome surplus of Rs. 6·92 lakhs which, in the next year, 1106, gave a disappointing deficit of Rs. 12·23 lakhs. The two following years ended with Rs. ·38 lakh and Rs. 6·91 as surpluses, but at the close of the following year 1109, the demon of deficit

raised its head with Rs. 5·77 lakhs. The next two years were again periods of excess of expenditure over receipts, followed by a small surplus of Rs. 2·79 lakhs in 1112. During 1113 and 1114 again there were deficits which amounted to Rs. 3·76 lakhs, the surplus of 1112 being thus wiped off. Taking both sides of the account, it will be seen that, during the decade, deficits largely predominated and totalled to Rs. 30·27 lakhs while surpluses amounted to only Rs. 17 lakhs. Whatever may be the economic condition of the country and whatever may be the difficulties of the Finance Department, certain events have to be tackled which may be termed extraordinary. These were the visit of the Viceroy, the Pallikkettu ceremony or the marriage of Her Highness the First Princess, the Murajapam, the inauguration of the Travancore University etc., which are unavoidable in a progressive administration and have to be confronted in pursuance of the policy adumbrated by Government. In spite of the heavy expenditure incurred on these items, the State managed to get along without retrenchment in salaries which was resorted to by most of the other Governments-both Provincial Governments and Indian States. It is also well known that other Governments had to tighten the State purse to an unusual extent by even starving some of the departments and, in some cases, by additional taxation. Every one in Travancore at least knows that neither of these was ever even considered by His Highness the Maharaja. The Financial Secretary is perfectly right when he says with a glow of satisfaction "that the course of financial history of this country during the last decennium compares very favourably with that of the neighbouring countries and that its revenue position has withstood the reactions of the economic depression without recourse to additional taxation or accumulation of any unproductive debt." Here one can usefully recall what His Excellency Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy and Governor-General, said in 1933 when he paid a visit to Travancore. In replying to the toast proposed by His Highness the Maharajah he said:—

"It is true that you have only exercised your ruling powers for the last two years but your record of achievement and your programme mapped out for the future is one which would be a credit to a ruler of many years' standing."

In this connection what one cannot ignore is the great advantage that the Travancorean enjoys under the head of his dues to Government in the shape of tax. The incidence of taxation, both direct and indirect, per head of population in some of the more important Provinces and Indian States, stands thus :—

	Land Rev.	In-come tax	Stamps	Forest & Regis-tration	Excise	Industrial taxes. Customs & Salt.
1. Madras	1·08	·05	·36	·17	·76	...
2. Bombay	1·09	·15	·66	·26	1·31	...
3. Bengal	·78	·06	·51	·08	·31	·46
4. United Provinces	1·26	·04	·30	·12	·28	...
4. Punjab	1·17	·05	·36	·14	·46	...
6. Central Provinces	1·56	·06	·26	·36	·38	...
7. Mysore	1·86	·42	·28	·42	·78	...
8. Indore	4·45	...	·53	·42	·94	1·13
9. Cochin	1·02	·54	·47	·49	1·30	2·14
10. Hyderabad	2·04	...	·14	·12	1·31	·82
11. Baroda	3·90	·27	·43	·22	1·09	1·52
12. Travancore	**·79**	**·20**	**·41**	**·39**	**·97**	**1·02**

The figures given above attest that the first decade of His Highness's rule has been more than a success from a financial point of view. Though the trinity of causes given above, namely, the economic distress, the war and the political

disturbances, at one stage retarded the even tenor of progressive finance, the fact stands that it was during this decade the peak revenue was realised. It was also during this decade that several schemes of capital expenditure were carried out ensuring to the people a large measure of material prosperity, proving to the very hilt that, as the Financial Secretary says, "the State revenues are quite equal to meet its day-to-day demands and perform all the functions of a progressive, enlightened and efficient administration without recourse to a loan or taxation." Under modern conditions of finance and economic standards, the idea of capital works needs revision, as they should not be confused with commercial undertakings which are profit-bearing concerns. We have to be immensely satisfied that, if they will yield the interest obtainable in the current money markets, they should be classed as remunerative. Further, as the Dewan suggested "we may derive more advantageous results," which means that the fruits from these are enjoyed by the people and that the material resources of the State are also developed. It is from these and allied considerations that expenditure on capital works has to be viewed. Judged in this way the State may be considered to have invested its wealth in productive ways which will benefit not only the present generation alone but also posterity yet unborn. The Hydro-Electric Scheme initiated and carried out in Mysore nearly 40 years ago with daring and commendable forethought may be cited as an instance. The further extensions and expansions carried out in various stages are the best proof of how they have benefited the country and helped the people to enhance their standard of living and increase their economic prosperity. The great industrial advancement Mysore has made is mostly, if not entirely, due to electricity having been made available to the people as motive power. Thus it will be seen that the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme, the Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory, the Aluminium Factory (under construction at Alwaye) are all concerns whose potentialities in the material

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advancement of the country are immense, besides serving as an additional avenue for the solution of the current menacing problem of unemployment.

Coming to the debt position of the State, an analysis of the figures shows that the commitments and contingent liabilities are so small, namely, Rs. 79 lakhs, or roughly about one third of the annual revenue of the State, that the amount need not cause any alarm. By the side of this loan we have to consider that, besides a comfortable bank balance (including the balance in Treasuries) of Rs. 60·86 lakhs the State has a surplus investment of Rs. 231·19 lakhs in addition to a Revenue Reserve Fund balance of Rs. 8·90 lakhs which could be utilised in lean years. From a review of all the facts and figures given above one can come to only one conclusion which was stated by the Financial Secretary in his Budget Speech of 1115 :—

> "We are in an unassailably sound financial position and its soundness has been practically demonstrated by the fact that, not withstanding the economic depression and the strain of intense political agitation, the State has gone on from strength to strength without recourse to additional taxation.....and with full provision for ameliorative and nation-building services."

Constitutional Reforms in Travancore

Although, when talking of Constitutional Reforms in Indian States, as understood in the modern sense of the term, there may arise an idea of something intrincically incompatible, the Rulers of Travancore have from early times shown a desire to allow their subjects to participate in the management of public affairs and even take them into confidence wherever and whenever practicable. This tendency is revealed at a glance of the early history of the State. When other Indian States were engaged in defending themselves against successive invasions or raids and were trying their best to keep their heads above the flood of anarchy, civil war or

other serious and open disturbances in their States, Travancore under the wise and beneficent sway of that great Maharaja Rama Varma Kulasekhara Perumal or better known as *Dharma Raja* (good and just king) who reigned for 40 years from 1758-1798 A. D., was in the full enjoyment of the arts of peace. Internal reforms of a highly progressive nature were introduced and carried out to the lasting benefit of the people. One of these was the enlightened bias shown by the Government towards establishing popular institutions and registering the people's will in measures of administrative improvement. For, we are told that it was during the glorious reign of this Maharaja that for the proper administration of the State, *Sattavariola* or a collection of rules and laws for the guidance of the various Sirkar officials was promulgated in 951 M. E. (1776 A. D.) One of these ran thus :—

> "Every dispute between ryots concerning landed property shall be settled by the decision of four men of the village (in the form of a Panchayat) through the Proverthicar; if that officer does not settle the case immediately he shall be summoned before the District Cutcherry and an adequate fine imposed upon him and the case enquired into by *thadastars* (jury) formed of the inhabitants of the village where the disputed property is situated and in the presence of the District Officer."

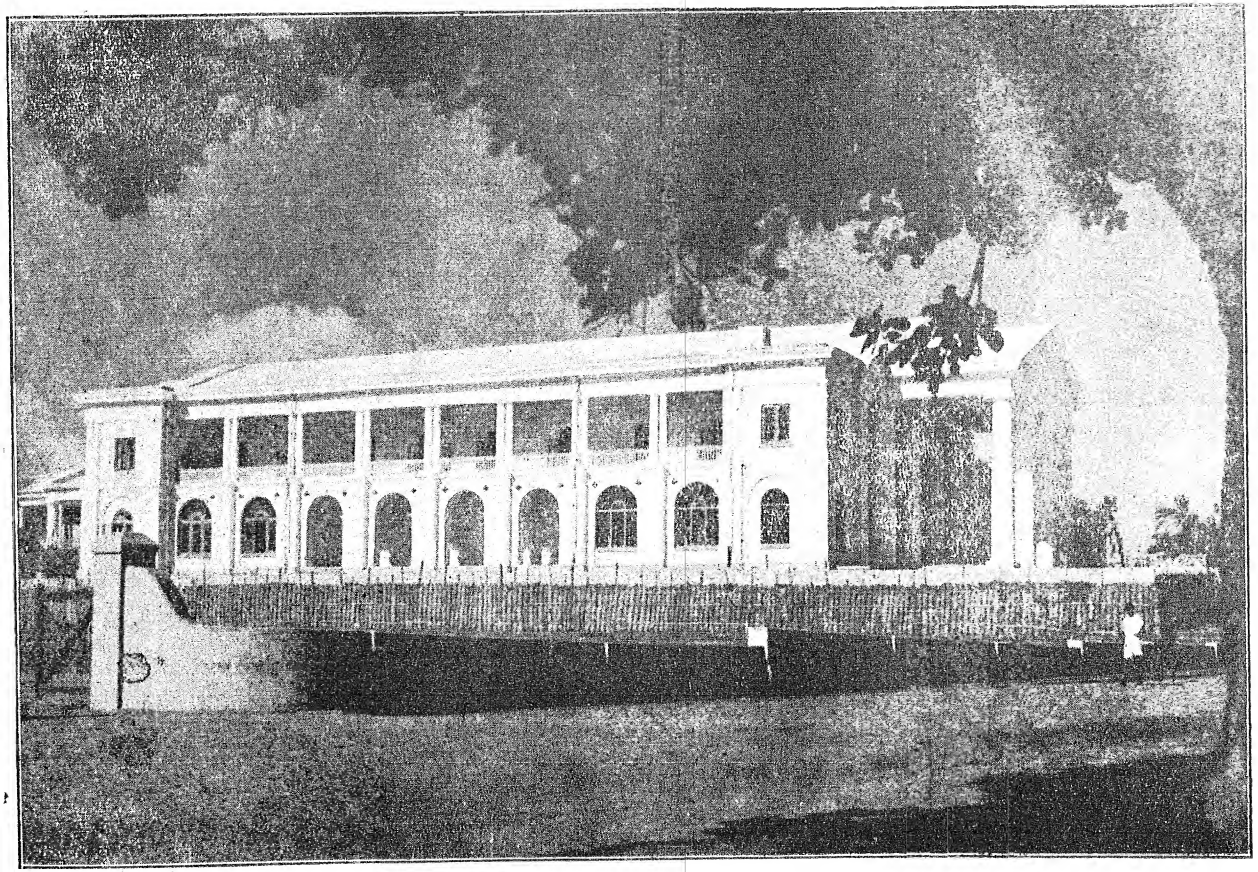
This suggestion of taking the vote of the people, though it may be crude, was extended to such matters as the reduction of assessment, settlement of dry and wet lands, preparation of rent rolls, examination of *puduvals* (waste lands), measurement of new conversions, assessment of garden lands with tree tax and in various other forms of land revenue administration. This was about 170 years ago. It is the spirit of the rule and not the modernised or present day form of it that one has to take note of. So then the idea of consulting the people on local matters of importance affecting the administration of the State was conceived by the Travancore Ruler 17 decades ago. This reform was further improved by one

step when, by Huzur Circular Order No. 4914 dated the 18th Medom 1035 M. E. (1860 A. D.) the Tahsildars were directed to see that only respectable ryots were appointed as assessors in revenue enquiries and that the amount of tax paid by them was entered in the statements recorded. At the end of another 28 years we see this reform crystallising into the nucleus of a recognised Popular Assembly. For, by Circular No. 2326 dated the 4th Karkatakom 1063 M. E. (1888 A. D.) published as a notification in the *Travancore Government Gazette* dated the 24th Karkatakom 1063, addressed to the Division Peishkars and issued under Royal sanction, it was laid down that two intelligent and respectable ryots should be selected by the Tahsildar for each *Muri* and asked to serve as *Tadastars* or assessors in revenue enquiries. These *Tadastars* for the several *Muris* were to elect two from among them as representatives of the Taluk to be sent to the Huzur whenever Government wanted to ascertain the opinion of the ryots on any matter. A majority of votes was to determine the selection of these Taluk representatives. Lists of such persons were to be preserved in the Taluk, Division and Huzur Offices. If the persons selected as Taluk representatives were to die or to become unfit owing to any cause, a fresh election was to be made in the manner prescribed and the original lists, revised accordingly. The persons whose names were entered in the lists were invariably to be engaged as *Tadastars* in various matters connected with the Revenue Administration.

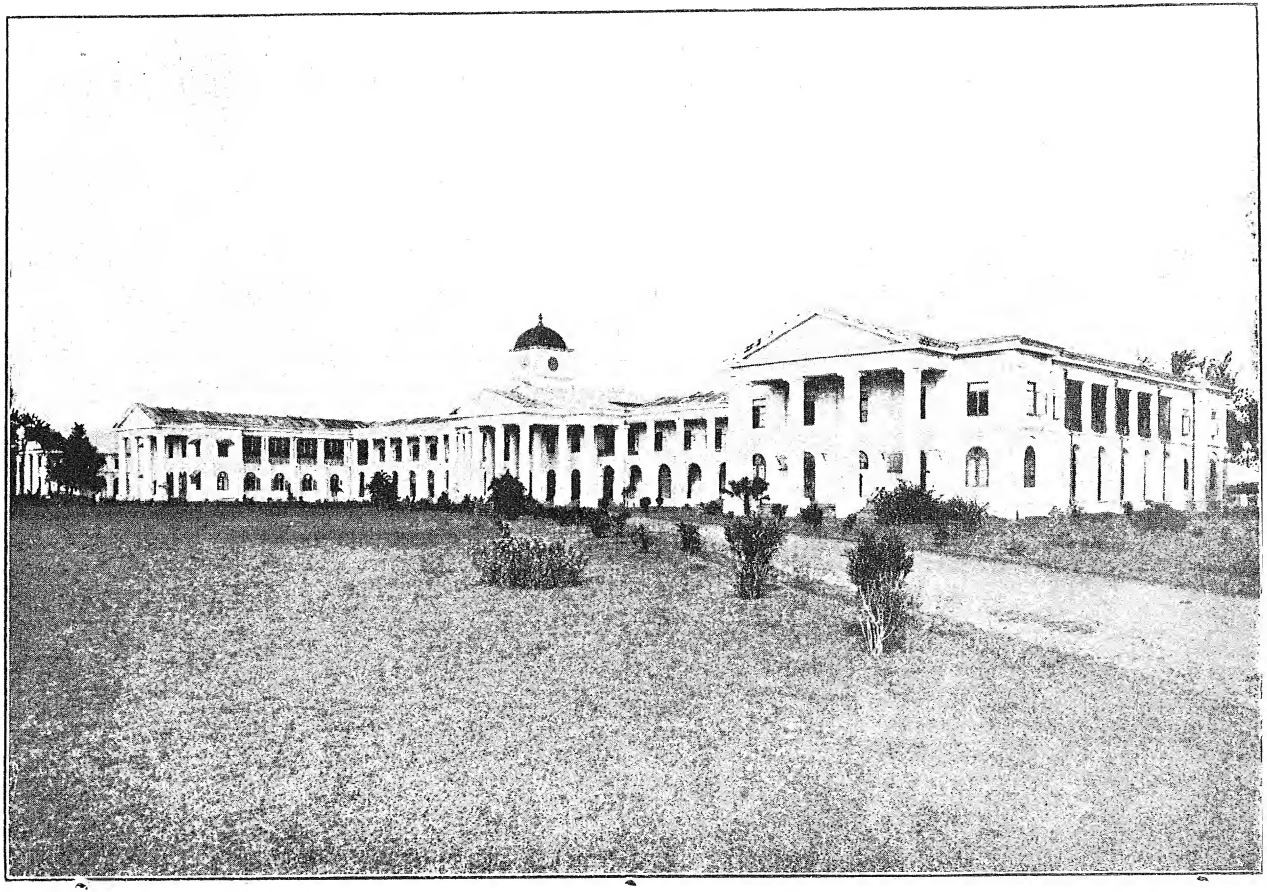
With this background it will be useful to consider the evolution of legislation and constitutional development in the State. A Legislative Council was ushered into existence in 1888 A. D., the Ruler's right of legislation, independently of the Council nevertheless remaining unimpaired. This was the first institution of the kind in an Indian State. The first Council had a minimum of five members and a maximum of eight, of whom not less than two were non-officials. The non-officials were nominated by the

Government. The Council was purely a deliberative body for purposes of legislation and had no administrative functions. But it had plenary powers of legislation subject to the Ruler's assent before a measure could pass into law. The only other restriction was that, in introducing a measure affecting the public revenues of the State or by which any charge was imposed on such revenues, the member introducing it had to obtain the previous sanction of the Dewan.

Every member, official and non-official, had independent powers of discussion and voting. Ten years later *i. e.* in 1898 the Council was enlarged, the minimum number of members being raised to 8 and the maximum to 15, the proportion of non-officials being fixed as two-fifths of the total number. The previous sanction of the Dewan was made necessary not only for measures affecting public revenues, but also for those affecting the religion or religious rites and usages of any class or community. The Council was not allowed to entertain any measure affecting the Ruling Family or the relations with the Paramount Power. The non-official members were at first nominated and latterly four of them were appointed on the recommendation of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, one for each of the four Revenue Division of the State. The Council was again remodelled in 1919 by Regulation I of 1095 M. E., which was promulgated directly by His Highness the late Maharaja. Provision was made for granting the people the right of electing members to the Council, while reserving to the Government the right of nominating some of the non-official members. The strength was raised to 25 and a bare official majority was provided for. The franchise was fairly broad-based. A limited right to interpellate the Government and to discuss the annual budget was conceded. The Council retained the old powers of legislation except that it was expressly prohibited from considering and enacting any measure affecting the provisions of the Regulation itself. That is to say, it could not alter its own constitution. The prerogative of the



The Travancore Legislature at Work



Public Offices

Ruler to make and pass Regulations independently of the Council was expressly affirmed. The Council was again enlarged by Regulation II of 1097 promulgated by the Ruler direct. This was passed on the 2nd October 1921. The strength of the Council was raised to 50, of whom 28 were elected and 22 nominated. Only 15 out of the latter were officials. The Dewan was made the President of the Council, but a Deputy President, not necessarily an official, was also appointed to preside at the meetings of the Council in the absence of the President. The Council was invested with powers of voting on the budget, moving resolutions and asking questions. During the budget debate, the token motion was freely resorted to for bringing under discussion Government measures and policies. The power of certification of budget demands refused or reduced by the Council and of legislative measures thrown out or altered was reserved; but so far, the Government have had no occasion to resort to this power. All persons who were registered holders, inamdars, tenants or kudiyans of land, the annual value of which was not less than Rs. 5/- persons who were assessed in a municipality to land or building tax of not less than Rs. 3/- and in the Town of Trivandrum, which returned one member, of not less than Re. 1 or to professional tax of any amount. Persons who were assessed to income tax, all graduates of recognised Universities, who were not undergoing a course of instruction in a recognised institution and all discharged, retired or pensioned officers of the Nayar Brigade, or His Majesty's Army or Navy, residing in Travancore, were eligible for the exercise of the franchise in the general constituencies, provided they were not under 21 years of age. Apart from this general electorate, there were special constituencies comprising the planting community, the Jenmies, the Political pensioners and the proprietors of *Edavakas* and the interests of commerce and industry. Women were placed on a footing of complete equality with men in the matter both of the franchise and of membership. The prohibition relating to the discussion of reserved subjects or the consideration of measures affecting the provisions of

the Legislative Council Regulation was retained. The introduction of certain measures required the previous sanction of the Dewan. Every legislative measure passed by the Council required the assent of the Ruler. The provisions of the old Regulation for the framing of emergency Regulations by the Dewan and the affirmation of the Sovereign's right to legislate independently of the Council were retained.

History of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly

To afford the people an opportunity of expressing directly to the Government their wants and wishes and of representing their views regarding administrative measures adopted from time to time, His Highness the late Maharaja was pleased to command that an Assembly under the designation of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be constituted. Another object was to enable the Government to learn at first hand how their actions affected the people and to have the benefit of their suggestions regarding public measures. The Assembly met once every year. The first session was held in October 1904. The members were then nominated by the Government from among the agricultural, trading, industrial and other classes. From the second year, the privilege of electing members to the Assembly was granted to the people. The total number of members was 100 and the membership was only for a year. Seventy-seven of the members were elected, and the remaining 23 were nominated by the Government to represent any interest or community which might otherwise fail to get representation. Every person who paid on his own account an annual land revenue of not less than 50 rupees or whose net income was not less than Rs. 2,000 and every graduate of a recognised university of not less than 10 years' standing and having his residence in the Taluk, was given the privilege of election. In addition to the general constituency, the Municipal Councils, the planters' Associations, the mercantile and trading classes, and the jenmies were also allowed to return representatives to

the Assembly. Each member was allowed to bring forward two subjects for representation at the Assembly. The Session was opened with an Address by the Dewan. The members were then called upon to make their representations on the subjects which they had notified and the Dewan replied in the name and on behalf of the Government. Representations not disposed of on the spot by the Dewan were subsequently examined and considered. The final decisions of the Government were conveyed to the members and were latterly embodied in a printed statement issued before the succeeding session. The Assembly had proved to be of invaluable help to the Government in that its members brought to the Dewan's notice by direct personal representation the needs of the people. During the last quarter of a century much that the Government had done for the amelioration of the conditions of the people was directly ascribable to this personal contact between the Government and the governed.

Constitution of the Existing Legislature

At the Darbar held on the 6th November, 1931 for investing His Highness the Maharaja with ruling powers His Highness announced his intention to place the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on a statutory basis with enlarged functions and powers. Pursuant to this announcement, the Legislative Reforms Regulation, II of 1108, was promulgated under date the 28th October 1932, and it came into force on the 1st January 1933. The main feature of the Reforms Regulation is the constitution of a bi-cameral legislature viz., "The Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly" and "The Travancore Sri Chitra State Council" with wide powers.

When the reforms were announced I wrote to the late Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E., who ever since his retirement from Travancore Dewanship, was taking keen interest in Travancore affairs and requested him to let me know his views for publication. In readily complying with my request, he wrote thus :—

"I have great pleasure in complying with your request for an expression of my views on the Travancore Constitutional Reforms recently promulgated by His Highness the Maharaja as his Birthday Boon since his investiture with Ruling Powers. As one who was instrumental in bringing into existence the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly I have naturally been interested in watching its growth all these years. It was on account of this interest that I went all the way to Travancore in 1929 to preside over the Silver Jubilee Celebration of this body in response to the invitation so kindly extended to me by the people.

From a cursory glance of the papers I am glad to note that the reforms are a distinct advance by the Proclamation of His Highness a purely petitioning body has been converted into a Statutory body with powers to vote supplies and pass legislation. The Assembly has been given the power of electing its Deputy President. The franchise has been reduced to Rs. 25 land tax. Both the Assembly and the Council have the right to initiate and pass legislation and all legislative measures generally require the assent of both Houses before they can be passed into law. The number of reserved subjects has been narrowed to 4 from 9. A point which deserves mention is that the new Legislature has rightly refused to accept the principle of communal representation and has so grouped the electoral areas that the predominant communities have been given opportunities of returning from their constituencies one from among themselves with the help of other voters from communities less in numerical strength. Thus an attempt has been made to enable the voters in the general constituencies to coalesce and bring about better relations and cordiality among the different communities. On the whole I welcome the reforms and offer my congratulations to the young Maharaja who has begun well. The people also deserve to be congratulated on the substantial measure of constitutional reform which they have been able to achieve on their march to responsive Government. I have always considered that the representations of the people of Travancore are characterised by a spirit of moderation and sense of responsibility. If the Birthday Boon now granted is accepted and worked out in the generous spirit in which it has been offered—and I have no reason to expect anything else—I am in hopes that His Highness the Maharaja and his advisers will not be slow to recognise the claims of the people to a larger share of their active participation in the Government of the State."

It was to these Reforms that His Excellency Lord Willingdon the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India, referred when he said :—

> "Travancore has, in the matter of constitutional reforms, always moved in the van of progress. This scheme of constitutional reform has anticipated the larger Reform Scheme for the whole of India which has been engaging the active and earnest consideration of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India for some years."

It was again to these reforms that Sir Samuel Hoare, the Ex-Secretary of State for India, alluded when, in the course of his Banquet speech delivered in 1933 in response to the toast proposed by His Highness the Maharaja, he emphasised his interest in the remarkable constitutional experiment that Travancore was now making and said " that in constitutional discussions the steps taken by Travancore would be of great illustrative value."

These are no small compliments to a Ruler who had not been on the throne for not more than a couple of years. Under this scheme, the Sri Mulam Assembly consists of 72 members of whom 62 are non-officials and ten officials. Forty three members are elected by the general territorial constituencies and five by constituencies representing special interests, Fourteen seats are reserved for reperesentation of communities which fail to secure adequate representation by election from the general constituencies. The elected element is thus more than 66 per cent, the non-official element more than 86 percent and the seats allowed for general constituencies nearly 60 percent; the Regulation does not provide for communal electorates or reservation of seats ; but Government have introduced facultative representation in the case of Ezhavas and Muslims, to each of whom a minimum number of seats is also guaranteed. Two seats in the Assembly are reserved for women. The franchise has been considerably widened and liberalised. The present qualifications are as follows :—

"5. A person shall be qualified as an elector for the urban constituency who :—

(a) was assessed in the previous year in a Municipality to a building or land tax or to professional tax; or

(b) holds within the constituency one of the qualifications in respect of the holding of land hereinafter prescribed for an elector of a rural constituency; or

(c) is a graduate of a recoguised University in the British Empire, provided that he is not undergoing a course of instruction in any recognised institution; or

(d) was assessed to income-tax in the previous year; or

(e) was the holder during the previous year of a certificate of registration for fixed engines for fishing granted by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries; or

(f) is a discharged, retired or pensioned military officer of the State Forces or of His Majesty's Army or Navy, residing in Travancore.

Explanation. The expression 'officer' in clause (f) does not include a 'soldier' or a 'private.'

6. A person shall be qualified as an elector for a rural constituency, who :—

(a) is a registered holder or an inamdar of land the annual value of which is *ane* rupee or more; or

(aa) is a holder of jenmom thanathu land the annual value of which is one rupee or more; or

(b) is a tenant holding land the annual value of which is one rupee or more; or

(c) is a kudiyan holding land the annual value of which is one rupee or more; or

(d) is a graduate of a recognised University in the British Empire, provided that he is not undergoing a course of instruction in any recognised institution; or

(e) was in the previous year assessed in a Municipality included in his constituency to a building or land tax or professional tax; or

(f) was assessed to income-tax in the pervious year; or

(g) was the holder during the previous year of a certificate of registration for fixed engines for fishing granted by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries; or

(h) is a discharged, retired or pensioned military officer of the State Forces or of his Majesty's Army or Navy residing in Travancore.

Explanation I. The expression 'officer' in clause (h) of this paragraph includes a commissioned officer and a non-commissioned officer but does not include a 'soldier' or a 'private'.

Explanation II. For the purpose of this paragraph the annual value shall be calculated in the following manner :–

(i) in the case of lands paying full assessment to Government, the assessment payable to Government, for the lands together with any water rate payable for their irrigation shall be taken to be the annual value of such lands,

(ii) In the case of inam lands or lands held under any other favourable tenure, wholly or partially free from assessment but held directly under Government, the full assessment which such lands would bear if they were not inam or subject to such favourable tenure together with any water rate which may be payable for their irrigation shall be taken to be the annual value of such lands.

(iii) In the case of a tenant, the annual value of the land held by him shall be the full assessment fixed for the land at the last settlement.

(iv) In the case of a Kudiyan holding Jenmom land, the annual value shall be the full assessment which the Kanom holding would bear if it were Pandarapattam land.

(v) In the case of Jenmom Thanathu lands, the annual pattom as assigned at the Settlement shall be taken to be the annual value of such lands.

Explanation III. (1) In the case of wet lands coming under clauses (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) of Explanation II above, the annual value shall be calculated in the following manner :—

(a) In the Trivandrum Revenue Division one half of the full assessment shall be commuted at six chackrams per para

of paddy and the remaining one-half at 11 chackrams per para, or an average at 8½ chackrams per para.

(b) In the Quilon, Kottayam and Devicolam Revenue Divisions, three-fourths of the full assessment shall be commuted at six chackrams per para of paddy and the remaining one-fourth at 11 chackrams per para, or on an average at 7¼ chackrams per para.

(2) In the case of lands where the whole or any portion of the assessment, rent or pattom is paid in paddy, the value of the paddy shall be calculated at 11 chackrams per para.

Explanation IV. A person who holds in different constituencies land falling under any one or two or all of the classes mentioned in clauses (a), (aa), (b) and (c) and whose combined annual value is one rupee or more shall be deemed to be qualified to be an elector under this paragraph.

Explanation V. Any person who holds lands falling under any two or all of the classes mentioned in clauses (a), (aa), (b) and (c) of this paragraph and whose combined annual value is one rupee or more, shall be deemed to be an elector under this paragraph."

The Assembly has an elected Deputy President and a panel of two Chairmen.

The Sri Chitra State Council consists of 37 members, of whom 27 are non-officials and 10 officials; of the non-officials, 16 are to be elected by general constituencies and 6 by special constituencies. Five seats have been reserved for nomination to secure the services of men of approved merit who have distinguished themselves in the service of the country, either as officials or as non-officials. The property qualification for franchise is payment of an annual land tax of Rs. 25. Graduates of ten years' standing can alone vote; and the minimum age for voters is 30.

Both Chambers have the right to initiate and pass legislation. All legislative measures generally require the assent of both Chambers before they can be passed into law.

Difference of opinion between the two Chambers is to be referred for decision to a Joint Committee of both Chambers consisting of an equal number of members selected by each.

The only subjects removed from the cognisance of the legislature are :—

1. The Ruling Family of Travancore or any Member thereof; or the management of Their Household; or,
2. The relations of the Government with the Paramount Power or with Foreign Princes or States; or
3. Matters governed by treaties, conventions or agreements now in force or hereafter to be made by the Government with the Paramount Power; or
4. The provisions of the Legislative Reforms Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder.

In regard to Finance, the Assembly has much larger control than the other Chamber, which latter has only the opportunity to record its opinion on the financial policy of Government. A Public Accounts Committee has been constituted. Both the Chambers are represented in this body.

The right to ask supplementary questions has been extended to all members. Express provision is made in the Rules declaring that no action will lie against any member of either Chamber for statements made in the House in the course of the proceedings.

It will be noticed that the striking and interesting fact which emerges from what has been stated above is that, in the gradual and measured evolution of constitutional (political) changes during the past 52 years, Travancore has been at every stage in advance of every other Indian State in the matter of representative element in the Government of the State and that the democratic spirit has been encouraged and fostered. On every occasion the change for constitutional advance has come from Government and has not been wrung from the Sovereign. Its Assembly has 83 per cent of non-official element and its Legislative Council 73 per cent as

against 60 per cent in the Mysore Council, 50 per cent in Baroda and 40 per cent in Hyderabad.

A Record of its Work

That this bicameral Legislature has served its purpose well and that it has been of immense help to Government will be seen from a record of its work for the past eight years. Legislative measures, numbering more than 100 and affecting the welfare of the people generally and those relating to their social and material advancement, have engaged the attention of the two Houses. The most important pieces of legislation whose object has been the improvement of the condition of the agrarian classes is the Debt Relief Act which after prolonged deliberation for about half a dozen years came into force on September 16th, 1940. It is wider in scope and application than similar enactments elsewhere. The Trivandrum City Municipal Act is an important enactment which was passed after careful and deliberate consideration. It makes provision for the better management of the municipal affairs of the City of Trivandrum and is on the lines of the City Municipal Act of Madras. It is a distinct mile-stone in the march of progress of civics in the State. As a Municipal Corporation it is the Sixth in all India. The problem of juvenile delinquency has been engaging the attention of Government and the Reformatory Act passed has made provision for short time leave to the inmates of the Reformatory School. Among other legislative measures which have been placed on the Statute Book may be mentioned the Rubber Control Act, the Government Trading Taxation Act, the Census Act, the Travancore Registration Amendment Act, the Travancore Jenmi Kudiyan Amendment Act, the Factories Act, the Trade Unions Act, the Trade Disputes Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Companies Act and the Insurance Act.

In respect of child workers and female workers the Factories Act contains provisions more liberal than those contained in any similar legislation in India. No factory in

Travancore is allowed to employ child or female workers before 7 A. M. or after 5 P. M. whereas in British India and other Indian States the period allowed is between 6 A. M. and 7 P. M.

The activities of the Legislature on matters of social amelioration have been equally fruitful, which will show how the non-official members have been exercising their powers as regards social amelioration. On this subject the Government assume a strictly neutral attitude as it is their desire to respect the religious and social susceptibilities of the people, whatever may be their religion. The task of social legislation is, therefore, left entirely to the non-official members. There are several pieces on the legislative anvil. When, however, any piece of social legislation does come for consideration, Government take care to obtain expert and representative advice by co-opting members for the time being. Thus, the bi-cameral Legislature is a thoroughly democratic institution for which the people will ever be grateful to His Highness the Maharaja who has conferred on them this boon.

The right of interpellation which the non-officials have is a valuable privilege exercised to the best advantage of both the Government and the people. During the year 1114 M. E. (1938-39) notice was given of 1,334 questions in the Assembly, of which 95 were disallowed as being in contravention of the rules and the rest were admitted. Of the questions admitted answers were furnished for 643 questions or 51 per cent. In the Council 252 questions were given notice of, of which 7 were disallowed and the rest admitted. The total number of questions answered in the Council during the year was 219 or 89 per cent. Eleven resolutions on matters of general public interest were moved and discussed in the Assembly of which three were passed. Of the rest one was talked out, one was rejected by the House and six were withdrawn after discussion. In the State Council seven resolutions were moved and discussed of which two were passed. One of the resolutions was accepted. Of the remaining four resolutions three were withdrawn after discussion and one was talked out.

Motions for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss matters of urgent public importance were moved on four occasions during the year but none of the motions were passed as three of them were withdrawn after discussion and one was lost when put to vote. In the Council too four adjournment motions were moved and discussed, but none of them were passed, three having been withdrawn after discussion and one talked out. The Assembly passed two condolence motions during the year expressing regret at the demise of His Highness the Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao III Gaekwar of Baroda and of His Holiness the Pope Pious XI.

In bringing this section to a close it is but fair that reference should be made to the fact that this further instalment of constitutional reforms is due as much to the democratic instinct and generosity of His Highness the Maharaja as to the statesmanship and broad mindedness of an eminent son of India who had already won distinction all over India as a constitutional lawyer of outstanding abilities who had his substantial share in the drafting of the Indian Constitutional Reforms and also in several Indian States whose Rulers had secured his valuable services for the purpose of constitutional reforms, each in his own State. Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who, to quote the words of His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur, uttered on the occasion of the unveiling of the Statue of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on the 20th July, 1940, "by his exemplary devotion to duty, has not only endeared himself to the Ruler and people of Travancore, but has assumed a position in the Councils of Princely India which, rulers like myself, so far away, are proud to own as one of the ablest ministers that the States possess today."

Recruitment to Public Service

If there was one administrative problem which has been causing untold trouble, nay, worry and annoyance to the Government for a long time and has taxed the brilliant and

resorceful brains of talented and distinguished Dewans and which, not having been solved satisfactorily, has been growing in strength, intensity and full throated articulation, as each year passed by, it was the distribution of the loaves and fishes of office. Although Government had issued Circulars and orders frequently to the Heads of Departments to see that no complaints were caused and had repeatedly emphasised certain broad principles in the matter of recruitment to public service, the cry has been in the air for full over a generation. Whether as a journalist attending almost evey annual session of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly during the 28 years of its existence or as a member of the Secretariat who had to compile the official proceedings of the annual sessions for several years, it has been the experience of the writer to listen to strong speeches and impassioned appeals made to the successive Dewan-Presidents of the Assembly to remove grievances, to deal out impartial justice, to be absolutely fair and even put down nepotism with a strong hand. Though in the course of these protestations and repeated asseverations, there were undesirable scenes and unseemly passages-at-arms which was only an outward indication of the feeling of the speakers, they continued to be made for a series of years and appeared to be a cry in the wilderness until 1107 (1931-32) when the Government of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal appointed a Committee to devise measures for solving the problem. The Committee took two years to send its report to Government, which in essentials was as divided as the number of members of the Committee itself. How helpful this body was to Government in loosening the tangle will be seen from the fact that discussions of principles descended to communal squabbles and party fights which would have reached unseemly situations but for the presence of the European element. Practically, the Government had to take up the question in the satisfactory solution of which His Highness the Maharaja was known to take great interest with a view to reach a satisfactory decision. In spite of his

youth His Highness realised the value of compromise in the solution of political tangles like these and the real spirit of His Highness' approach to these problems was understood in lesser responsible quarters. The result was the appointment of an efficient, firm and uncommunal officer as the Special Officer to deal with the Report of the Committee and to examine all available materials and explore all possible avenues to find a solution of the question and to submit a report on the principles to be observed in laying down the Government's future policy. He was also required to prepare a scheme for the constitition of a Public Service Commission, together with draft rules defining its duties and powers. A better choice could not have been made for a task of this serious nature. Though he was a Judge of the High Court for about an year only, he easily won public confidence as a judicial officer of high repute, unshakable principle and unbending character in whose sense of English justice and impartiality there was no difference of opinion. In fact at such a time like this when the country had been sharply divided into so many sections and parties, each cutting the throat of the other in matters of appointments, an officer in the service of the State like Dr. Nokes was an asset and he proved himself as such at the end of his responsible labours. Dr. Nokes' report was received by Government in March 1935, i.e., a few months after his appointment as Special Officer. After careful consideration of the proposals contained in his report, Government decided that all communities whose population was approximately two per cent of the total population of the State or about one lakh, should be recognised as separate communities for the purpose of recruitment to the public service, the only exception made being the Brahmin community who, though forming only 1·3 per cent of the total population, was to be recognised as a separate community. The services were divided into three divisions, the Higher, the Intermediate and the Lower. In the Higher division comprising all appointments carrying an initial pay of Rs. 150 or more per mensem, efficiency was recommended as the primary consideration.

It was proposed to institute a Civil Service Examination for the direct recruitment of candidates to this division. A proportion of the appointments was to be given by promotion based on exceptional efficiency, to the officers of the Intermediate division. A small proportion was also to be reserved for such of the communities as may not be able to get into the Civil Service by competition or promotion. In the Intermediate division of the service comprising all officers having an initial pay of Rs. 20 or more but less than Rs. 150 per mensem, recruitment to 60 per cent of the appointments was to be made on the basis of efficiency and for the remaining 40 per cent the principle to be followed was proposed to be combined with preference on communal basis. The communities to whom such preference was to be shown were specified. In regard to the Lower division comprising all appointments below Rs. 20 per mensem recruitment was to be made mainly on communal basis under a rotation system. The Military, Archaeological, Devaswom and Maramath Departments were to be exempted from the operation of these principles. A Public Service Commissioner was to be appointed as the central authority for recruitment and Dr. Nokes was selected to that post in July 1935. The Department was to work on the lines indicated above for three years at the end of which the position was to be reviewed by Government in the light of the conditions then existing.

On the expiry of the three years Dr. Nokes, the Public Service Commissioner, submitted his report to Government on the working of the Department, making suggestions wherever required with a view to better results being obtained. An year and two months after the working of the Department began under the guidance and control of Dr. Nokes, the personnel of the administration underwent a change and Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar had accepted the office of Dewan. During the first year 74 appointments were made. In the second year the total number of candi-

dates advised for recruitment to the Intermediate Division was 772. In the Lower Division 1,187 candidates were advised for recruitment according to communal rotation. Of these 841 recruitments or over two-thirds were from members of inadequately represented communities. The Government have recorded their opinion that "the general effect of the recruitment rules on the public service, on candidates and communities, has been beneficial." In the third year (1113 M. E.) the number of selective tests conducted was 133 as against 95 in 1112. Seven hundred and twenty nine candidates were advised for recruitment in the Intermediate Division of the Public Service. Of these 395 or 57 per cent of those advised for recruitment as a result of the selective tests belonged to inadequately represented communities, the corresponding percentage for the previous year being 38. In the Lower Division out of a total of 1,719 candidates advised for recruitment 72 per cent came from inadequately represented communities, the corresponding percentage for 1112 being 57. Details are given of the various communities from whom recruitment was effected in 1113 from which one can see that there has been displayed an absolute sense of impartiality and fairness in selection. The observation of Government that "the recruitment rules are seen to have operated definitely in favour of the inadequately represented communities," was well justified. One additional step forward was taken during 1113 and that was the issue of the Travancore Civil Service Cadre Rules. Certain Rules were also prescribed in order to regulate promotion from the Lower to the Intermediate Division and for the determination of seniority among acting incumbents. The number of selective tests conducted during the year was 65 as against 133 in the year previous. 368 candidates were advised for recruitment in the Intermediate Division of the public service as against 729 in the previous year. Of these 357 were advised for recruitment as a result of selective tests and of these 185 or about 52 per cent belonged to inadequately represented communities, the corresponding figure for the previous year

being 57. In the Lower Division of the 568 persons advised for appointment 416 or over 73 per cent belonged to the inadequately represented communities, the percentage for the previous year being 72. Summarising the working of the Department for the past two years, it is seen that 782 candidates from the inadequately represented communities were advised for recruitment to the Intermediate Division, the total number of candidates recruited being 1,575 or 50 per cent nearly. This is in excess of the percentage of appointments ear-marked for them under the rules, *viz.* 40 per cent. The corresponding figures for the Lower Division are 2,442 candidates out of 3,392 or a percentage of 72.

An important event in the year 1114 was the holding of the Civil Service Examination for the first time. The general scheme of Examination is similar to that for the Indian Civil Service. The number of candidates who applied to be admitted to the Examination was 44 of whom 38, including one woman, were admitted and after the Examination the first four candidates in the order of merit were selected for recruitment. Two candidates from the inadequately represented communities were also nominated for recruitment in the order of merit. These six candidates were from the following communities: Nair, Syrian Catholic, Brahmin, Other Christian, Muslim and other Hindu. The selected candidates have been appointed on probation for a period of two years and they are undergoing training in certain departments.

The above is a summary of the work done by the Public Service Commissioner during the three years since his appointment in 1935. As contemplated by Government Dr. Nokes submitted his roport which was considered by Government. As during this period there were criticisms in the news papers, the report was placed before the two Houses of the Legislature for discussion. As a result of the deliberations of both the Assembly and the Council the Government embodied in their entirety the scheme of communal representation

prepared by the Legislature. One of the main points on which the Government felt themselves unable to accept the recommendation of the Legislature was as to the recruitment to the Judicial Department. After considering the views of the High Court and having regard to the fact that the general practice elsewhere is also to obtain the advice of the High Court in the matter of recruitment to the Judicial service, Government came to the conclusion that such recruitment should be regulated by the High Court. At the same time Government have laid down that the High Court should be guided by the principle which underlies the G. O. namely, of doing justice to all communities and especially to those who have hitherto not been adequately represented, provided always candidates of the requisite competence are available. The Government have also laid down the proportion of recruitment from the Bar and from the service. Government have made some modifications regarding the classification in the Lower Division of certain appointments and have supplemented the resolutions of the Legislature by providing that, wherever suitable candidates are not available from any community in any particular turn, the communities passed over will get the benefit of the vacancies thus lost to them to the extent to which qualified candidates are subsequently forthcoming from the communities concerned during a period of three years. Government have also enunciated a new principle regarding recruitment to the Lower Division as they have been impressed by the wastage of time and energy involved in securing degrees in the case of persons who crowd into the ranks of the Lower Division. They have laid down that, in the matter of recruitment to the newly constituted Lower Division, it will be on the basis of general competence and character and there would be no preference shown to the holder of a degree as such. These are the main items of divergence between the recommendations of the Legislature and the final decision of Government. A thoroughly representative Committee on a communal basis has also been

appointed whose duty will be to see to the implementing of the policy decided upon and not with the actual choice of the personnel. A point which deserves to be noted is the large scope made available for the appointment of women in most of the branches of the public service. The attitude of Government in this matter has been largely availed of and there are women in service in almost all departments including the judicial where a woman judge has been recruited from the Bar, the only instance in the history of India—Indian India or British Provinces. In another instance also Travancore has scored in that a major department is presided over by a woman. No comment is needed on the liberality which has characterised the outlook and attitude of Government.

Agriculture in Travancore

"*The test of a people's prosperity*", *wrote W. S. Lilly*, "*is not the extension of exports, the multiplication of manufactures, or other industries, the construction of cities. No. A prosperous country is one in which the great mass of the inhabitants are able to procure, with moderate toil, what is necessary for living human lives, lives of frugal and assured comfort.*"

Scientific agriculture in Travancore is about 60 years old. It was His Highness Visakham Tirunal Maharaja (1880-1885) who first realised the value of scientific agriculture to the people and showed that two blades of grass could be grown where one grew before. I have a vivid recollection of his small experimental farm in the Kandukrishi (Crown) compound on the bank of the Karamanai river near the bridge. There he planted tobacco and watched its growth under scientific treatment. But his name has gone down to these two generations for another innovation in the economic life of the people, namely, the introduction of tapioca, which in hard times of economic distress of the kind we have been passing through of late, has been the food of several thousands of

families and continues even today to be their mainstay in life. His Highness also deputed two young men to the College of Agriculture, Saidapet, for being trained in the science and practice of agriculture. Today his name is reckoned as a benefactor of the people for the patriotic efforts he made for the betterment of the economic condition of the agricultural classes. With his sad demise in 1885 there was a lull in the direction of agricultural improvement. For, the two students who returned from the Saidapet Agricultural College after successfully undergoing their course were not given an opportunity to utilise their knowledge for the promotion of scientific agriculture, but were employed in the Land Revenue Department of the State. There was no stir to improve farming or introduce new methods in cultivation. The primitive ways continued for about a decade at the end of which bright hopes dawned for the Travancore ryot.

The advent of an Educationist in the person of Mr. H. B. Grigg, I. C. S., C. I. E. as Resident, and the appointment of a people's man and an expert in matters connected with land like Mr. Shungrasubbier, C. I. E. as Dewan, paved the way for an agricultural era—an era of agrarian prosperity. The services of a qualified graduate in Agriculture were engaged in the person of Mr. B. S. Narayanaswami Aiyar, B. A. and he took charge in December 1894 as Agricultural Superintendent of the newly opened Demonstration Farm in Karamanai, at the outskirts of the capital city of Trivandrum. Soon after it began to work it gained in strength from another friend of Agriculture, Sir Frederick Nicholson, who became British Resident. His keen interest coupled with that of the Dewan Mr. Shungrasubbier were largely responsible for the expansion of the work in the Farm. A couple of years later an Agricultural School was started with a two-year course of studies in pursuance of a scheme under which the passed students of this Agricultural school (of whom I was one) were employed as Head Masters of Primary Schools. To each school was attached a Farm where the pupil of the land-owning classes

were given training in science and practical work and thus was reared a band of young men, whose occupation was to be farming. It was when this scheme was in full swing that Sir Arthur Havelock, the then Governor of Madras, visited Trivandrum and availed himself of that occasion to pay a visit to the Karakulam Agricultural School. On going through the Farm he complimented the State on the original scheme of Agricultural expansion. It was also about that time that Dr. Duncan, the then Director of Public Instruction, Madras, paid a visit to the Trivandrum Farm and observed in the Visitors' Book that " Agriculture in Travancore has begun in the right end."

These incidents are mentioned just to show that scientific agriculture had taken root in the soil more than 45 years ago. It was when the masses of the agricultural population had gained a fairly good knowledge of the art of the plough that Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai, who had been deputed to Europe for the study of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh at the expense of the State, returned with high distinction. A class-mate of Dr. Kunjan Pillai, who was in Baroda service, when I was in that State in 1914, told me that Dr. Kunjan Pillai "created a revolution in the University circles by winning all the prizes and all the medals." When he arrived in Trivandrum with such high credentials, he was asked to enter upon his work as Director of Agriculture, the agricultural work done till then being placed under Dr. Kunjan Pillai as its controlling head. The nucleus thus formed began to grow in strength and vigour under the new Director until it became a tremendous tree from which sprouted several branches.

The period of over quarter of a century during which Dr. Kunjan Pillai held sway was the most productive of very good results. In addition to several Demonstration and Experimental farms opened in several parts of the State, special stations for paddy, cocoanut, pepper, sugarcane, etc., were established. Cocoanut being the greatest and the most

important industrial crop, a series of experiments and demonstrations was started for different purposes. The cocoanut pest which had become a menace to cocoanut planters, was successfully tackled. Sandy wastes considered useless for any kind of cultivation were converted into excellent cocoanut gardens and thus the land value of such waste lands had risen very high. The Travancore ryot was ever used to his old plough whose plough-share would not go even a few inches into the ground. By successive demonstrations the benefit and usefulness of improved ploughs were shown to the ryots who, having become convinced of the superior advantages of these implements began to use them. These improved ploughs gained currency in rural areas and became popular. The number of these in use became larger with each year, necessitating training being given to local blacksmiths to repair them on the spot. Later on they were manufactured under the auspices of the Agricultural Department and sold at cheap rates. Thus all obstacles to, and prejudices against, these ploughs were removed. Today several hundreds of these are in use. Equally good work was done as regards the use of chemical manures. In the earlier stages what the Department did was to buy these chemical manures and sell them to the ryots on a loan system, the cost being realised in instalments. Later on the ryots became used to them to such an extent that arrangements were made for the organisation of sale Depots which were opened by the firms dealing in these manures.

The next attempt made was in seed selection. Several exotic varieties, which suited local conditions, were introduced and cultivated ; some of these, besides being flood-resistants, yielded crop in much shorter time. Several agricultural societies were formed with a view to do propaganda work and help in the distribution of selected seeds of these varieties of paddy. A few varieties became very popular among the agriculturists. Ryots interested in cocoanut cultivation on a scientific scale were specially taught the methods of seed selection. The

trees from these seeds were so excellent in fruits and other produce that there was a large demand for these from outside the State. Thus several ryots made this a very good and profitable business.

Paddy, being the food crop of the country, the Department paid a good deal of its attention to this. The Kuttanad area in Central Travancore has about 1,00,000 acres of wet cultivation including backwater reclamation which is carried on under great difficulties and obstacles offered by nature. The paddy lands used to be under some four or five feet of water. This water has first to be baled out before agricultural operations are begun. Manuring of these paddy lands was impossible as the manures applied would be washed away. The only way of these paddy lands being manured was by the natural process of silt deposit during floods, which however, did not do much permanent good. The Department had first to remove the obstacles and then apply manure. The methods of cultivation recommended by the Department and followed by the ryot population, brought a larger return. In view of these benefits which accrued to the people, there was demand for larger areas of the backwaters being brought under paddy cultivation and reclamation of backwaters was freely resorted to. Similarly, the Department conducted scientific investigations into *Kari* lands, where the dead organic matter under the water which had become inseparably mixed with heavy clay, was a serious obstacle to cultivation of any kind. The Departmental Bio-Chemist undertook continued experiments and at last demonstrated to the ryot population in the neighbourhood that these lands could be brought under the plough under certain methods and ways which were not beyond the capacity or means of the people. In South Travancore also, which for ages had been known as the granary of the South, there was a peculiar formation of alkaline soil extending over 10,000 acres. This had to be tackled in a scientific way. Here also the hand-maid of agricultural science came to the help of the ryots, with the result that larger areas have been brought under paddy.

The point that has to be noted is that the demonstration work everywhere has been carried out in private lands owned by the ryots concerned—a method which appealed most strongly to the population generally and induced them to adopt ways and methods which otherwise would not have had the desired effect. In this system of popularisation of improved methods in ryots' lands under the supervision of the Departmental officers, Travancore was the first to introduce this system and thus long ago forestalled the suggestions and recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, which, presided over by Lord Linlithgo, the present Viceroy, toured through the whole of India. The number of centres of private lands where manurial demonstrations on paddy were conducted is at present 85, while the number of holdings where similar manurial demonstrations on cocoanut were conducted was 87. The appreciation of ryots and their enthusiasm are so abiding that this number has been on the increase with each year.

Travancore has about 13,000 acres under sugarcane, especially in Central and North Travancore. In view of the manufacture of jaggery, which is a popular cottage industry in those parts, the Alwaye Farm was converted into a pure Sugarcane Farm and acclimatisation trial of exotic varieties of sugarcane, distribution of setts of promising varieties to ryots and demonstration of improved methods of cultivation and of preparing jaggery were the items of work done in this Farm. 13 varieties of cane were tried and it was found that P. O. J. varieties Nos. 2878 and 2725, which yielded highest percentages of sucrose contents suited local conditions best. That the ryots also appreciated the improved methods recommended by the Department is evident from the fact that 24,058 setts of the latter variety were sold to ryots at a nominal price last year. The popularity of the latter variety can be judged from the fact that it has replaced the old local variety of cane in about 5,000 acres.

Tobacco is an exotic plant, the introduction of which has been a success. Travancore imports annually about 13,000 candies of chewing tobacco the value of which is about Rs. 40 lakhs. It is the intention of the Department to replace this import by local production for which the successful results so far obtained are promising.

A later development which has had its beneficent reaction on Travancore is the association of Travancore with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research under the Government of India. Since then Travancore has become a unit of the Imperial organisation.

In the matter of Agricultural Education a new policy was pursued from the one which was carried out some years earlier. The idea which gained support from competent quarters was that an Agricultural bias should be given to general Vernacular education. Following this line of thought, the Government sanctioned the establishment of new Agricultural Schools in 1926. Admission to these schools was open only to the sons or close relations of the cultivating classes, the object being to create in the pupils a desire to go back to land and resume the occupation of farming to which a disinclination seems to have come about among the rising generation. Applicants for admission were clearly told that they should not expect a Government job soon after they secure a pass at the end of their course of instruction and that their business should be to go to the plough and thus be producers of food and not consumers. Two such Agricultural Schools were opened and the medium of instruction is Malayalam. The successful students were found occupation connected with land. The Government ear-marked 300 acres for creating a colony of these students. A holding of 10 acres was assigned to each student. He was asked to cultivate his 10-acre block on the lines approved by the Department and was also given a loan of Rs. 500 each. In this way 24 youths have become colonists till now. They

themselves do manual work and cultivate their own lands. A similar colony of Ex-War Service men has also been created.

Two other branches of the Department opened to supplement agricultural work were Veterinary service and Animal Husbandry. There are at present 15 Veterinary Hospitals and two dispensaries in addition to grant-in-aid native Vaidyasalas. Very good work has been done under the latter head also. His Highness the Maharaja takes a keen interest in maintaining a good breed of fine cattle and in popularising among the people the importance of growing fodder.

The following is a summary of the progress made in recent years.

1. The Department joined the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in India and the Director became a member of its Advisory Board.
2. A scheme for an intensive investigation of the diseases of the cccoanut palm was submitted to the Imperial Council with an application for a grant. This grant was sanctioned and work is in active progress.
3. Another scheme for research on paddy was submitted. This too has been approved by the Advisory Board and a grant has been sanctioned and work has already been started.
4. The Advisory Board has also recently approved of two schemes—one on a village project and the other on Milk Recording.
5. To work in collaboration with the Government of India Marketing Staff, a Marketing branch was added to this department and two Marketing officers are carrying on surveys of the methods of marketing the most important agricultural and livestock products of the State.
6. An Advisory Board of Agriculture consisting of officials and non-officials has been constituted in the State to review the work of the Department, to bring to the notice of the officers the real needs of the ryots and to popularise scientific agriculture both by example and precept.
7. A Scheme to grade up the cattle of the town of Trivandrum and its suburbs has been initiated with a stock of five superi-

or stud bulls stationed one in each of the five wards of the town.

8. A similar scheme to grade up the buffalo population of rural areas has also been started in North Travancore.
9. The propaganda branch of the Department was recently reorganised.
10. A nursery for the multiplication and sale of selected superior strains of fruit plants has been developed at the Fruit Farm, Cape Comorin.
11. Two Itinerant Veterinary Inspectors have been appointed to carry on an intensive campaign to stamp out epidemics of anthrax and rinder pest.

Development of Fisheries

There was a fisheries branch which was working for over 25 years under the control of the Director of Agriculture. The work done by this branch was to control the fishing in the backwaters and to investigate the possibilities of introducing superior fishes and modern methods of fish curing. Fish curing yards were opened in several places with a view to popularise sanitary methods of curing and to encourage the fishermen to adopt these methods ; salt was supplied to them at the curing yards at concessional rates. The average annual revenue derived from the backwaters and inland fisheries was about Rs. 20,000 roughly. Soon after assuming charge as Dewan, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar found with the true instincts of a financier and economist that there was plenty of scope for the development of this source both from the point of view of revenue to the State and as a means of affording a large section of the population nutritive and valuable diet. As one of the primary objects of the Travancore University was to help in the scientific research and development of the material resources of the State, the Government charged the Travancore University to investigate the subject and report on the potentialities of this source. The result of the investigation was that the fishing industry was discovered to be full of promise in more than one direction.

The fishing branch was, therefore, transferred from the Agricultural Department to the Travancore University and a qualified scientist was appointed as Professor to work out and evolve a scheme to utilise the immense possibilities in the State, both coastal and inland. It is well known that the long coast line which Travancore is blessed with—a distance of about 200 miles—makes the State the biggest maritime State in India and could be made to yield incalculable and inexhaustible wealth. It has been estimated that Travancore sea coast, its backwaters and rivers produce one-fifth of the fish consumed in India. The Government, therefore, launched a scheme for tapping this source and attached a Department of Fisheries to its University to be worked by its Professor of Fisheries and Marine Biology. Researches conducted in the Marine Laboratory have shown that profitable work could be carried on in three directions. In the first place, there is the dietitic value of fish produced here which is unsurpassed in its nutritive value. In the second place, the medicinal aspect of the fishing industry has been found to be highly helpful in affording substitutes for a good number of drugs now imported. Thirdly, a large number of industries could be built up from certain varieties of fish available in commercially sufficient quantities. The establishment of a well-equipped Laboratory and Aquarium being the first step, a new and up-to-date building was constructed at the beach. The opening ceremony of this institution was performed a few months ago by Her Highness the First Princess.

In requesting Her Highness the First Princess Karthika Tirunal, Sachivothama Sir. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan, gave a realistic description of the spectacular aspect of the Aquarium. He said :—

> "Marine and river life in its variegated and beautiful forms will be displayed here. Although the collection is now in its beginning, I can say from my own experience that the fish fauna of Travancore is second to none in variety, in the brilliance of colouring of the fish and in their very remarkable and

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curious habits which will elicit the attention of the spectators. For instance, you will see already inhabiting the premises fish which float themselves into balloon shape in order to get to the top of the tank so that they may escape the onslaughts of their finny enemies. When the danger is past, they expel the air and come down to the bottom. You will also see fish armed with vacuum apparatus by which they stick to the side of rocks and cannot be easily dislodged. From the point of view of spectacular attraction this Aquarium will serve a definite purpose."

A Description of the Aquarium

The Aquarium stands on an excellent site close to the beach in Trivandrum, the distance from the sea being as short as only 1,800 feet and close to several fishing villages and very near some fresh water lakes. It contains 25 tanks each 10′ × 3½′×3′ and is provided with 1" thick glass plates in front. The tanks are constructed on both sides of U shaped corridor. The outerside of the corridor is lined by 15 sea water tanks while the inner side is occupied by two parallel longitudinal rows of tanks, each row containing five tanks for fresh water and lake water, the total capacity of the tanks is 15,800 gallons. The tanks are lighted from above from invisible sources and this enables the visitors to get a series of brightly illumined pictures of under-water world. Apart from considerations of aesthetic value, this arrangement is the essential part of the proper care of fishes. The circulation of the sea water is based on the Lloyd system in which the same sea water is always in circulation thus avoiding the necessity of pumping water from the sea daily. The waste water which overflows from the exhibition tanks is cleaned in special filters and returned to the underground reservoirs from where it is pumped again into the exhibition tanks, after it is mixed up with small quantities of fresh water to compensate losses by evaporation. The incorporation of all the recent developments in Aquarium construction makes this one of the most up-to-date, while in size and capacity it is the largest on the main land of the Asiatic continent. On the first floor of this

magnificent building there are two laboratories, one for marine investigation and the other for the study of fresh water biology. Provision is made for a chemical laboratory, a library and a Fisheries Industrial Museum.

The very first problem taken up by the Department was the preservation of fishing nets. In Travancore, as in other places in India along the coast, fishermen have been following certain primitive methods of net preservation which are ineffective and some times harmful. Western countries use chemicals and soap which, though very efficient, are beyond the means of local fishermen. A cheap substitute was discovered which the fishermen themselves could prepare at a small cost. This is now being used.

One of the most important branches of the fisheries of the State is the Prawn fishing industry of the backwaters. According to a rough estimate the prawn fish in the State is worth about Rs. 15 lakhs per annum. The peculiarity of this prawn fish is that, when there is a heavy shower during the monsoon, the paddy fields are flooded from the lakes and backwaters when prawn fish also is driven into the paddy fields. After the floods subside, the prawn fish remains in the marshes of the paddy fields and multiply. When the cropping time comes and when the havest is reaped, the lucky agriculturist gets not only paddy but also a very good crop of prawns. But of late there has been deterioration both in quantity and quality. In order to check this downward tendency legislative steps are being taken by the University as well as by the Government.

Another source of wealth is the large number of shark which visit the Travancore coast. This sea product is rich in oil used for medicinal purposes. The fishermen who were aware of this fact have been extracting the oil by frying the putrified liver. This process destroys all the vitamins which it contains. Realising this wastage going on and the potential value of the oil as a substitute for Cod Liver Oil, the Department took up the problem of preparing the oil without

destroying the vitamin contents. The samples of this oil were sent to the Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor, where it was examined and it was discovered that it contains very rich vitamins. After several clinical trials it was found to be a proper substitute for the foreign stuff. It is now being used in the Hospitals of the State and during the past two months as much as twenty gallons were produced and supplied to all Hospitals and Dispensaries in the State. It is much cheaper than the Cod Liver Oil, being one-fourth of the price of the latter. An important fact worth mentioning is that the Government of India have placed with the Travancore Government an order for this "Shaliverol" which is the patented name.

There is also a Cold Storage Plant which enables the Department to transport fish to the interior of the State. As fish is the important article of diet for a very substantial portion of the population of the State, there is a great demand for fish in the interior parts of the State. Another important discovery made during the past six months is the utility of an indigenous fish (*Aplochilus*) for destroying mosquito larvae. This is bound to have far-reaching results in the near future.

Rural Reconstruction

Modern trend of thought in every system of administration is that the masses of the people who live in villages and who form the real bulwark of the country's prosperity have not had that share of attention and care from the Central Government which is their due. There has been too much of urbanisation to the extent of village interests being tardily looked after. As a result of this impression having taken wings, all enlightened Governments have now begun to initiate and carry out schemes of rural reconstruction and village improvement. The Travancore Government having fallen in line with this scheme of bettering the condition of villagers, steps were taken to give outward form to this idea. With a view to foster and encourage rural development in the State, His Highness the Maharaja passed under date the 28th

Thulam (14-11-39) the Travancore Village Unions Act IX of 1115. The Act is a comprehensive measure and deals with such subjects as constitution of Village Unions, their administrative functions and powers, creation of a Village Fund and a number of miscellaneous matters such as appointment of Registrars of Village Unions, delegation of powers by Government, liability of members for loss, waste, misapplication of property, institution of legal proceedings against Village Union member, officer, &c. Under the Act, the Union is to make provision for carrying out the requirements of the village in respect of cleaning streets, supply of drinking water to the public, sanitation, control of cattle pounds, &c. The Union may also attend to primary education, relief of the poor or sick, vaccination and such other matters if directed by Government to do so.

The Government by a Notification constituted 26 Unions in the State each comprising a *Pakuthy* (Village). By another Notification Government also nominated members of the 26 Unions. The salient features of these Notifications are that these Unions were constituted, to start with, in the more important rural parts of the State and they represent compact areas. The Tahsildars of the Taluks where the areas are included have been nominated Presidents. All the Unions have a non-official majority. Each Union consists of 11 members, 5 officials including the President and 6 non-officials. Among the officials are officers of the Land Revenue, Medical, Public Health, P. W., Agricultural and Co-operative Departments which are, in the main, concerned with the public in general. The work done by these Unions during 1115 M. E. included a discussion of the scope of their work, formulation of proposals for the levy of assessment and framing their Budgets for 1116 M. E. They have already begun their work and from the enthusiasm displayed, it is hoped that they will be able to carry out the objects for which they were created. Government have sanctioned for each Union an annual grant of Rs. 500, so that some work may be done.

As the Agricultural Department has its close association with the rural population forming the masses living in the villages, it was thought best to utilize its services in the programme of Rural Welfare and Reconstruction. Just at this time the Government had also sanctioned a scheme for propaganda work of scientific agriculture and improved methods of farming among the agriculturists who form the peasantry of the land.

Consequent on this re-organisation of the propaganda branch of the Department, the policy of conducting propaganda and demonstrations in extensive tracts, which could not but be diffused and desultory, was changed into that of concentrating all activities in one village in each taluk, which would in the course of a few years, become a model of rural welfare work worthy of being copied by the other villagers.

A holding of 5 acres taken up in each taluk is called "The Rural Development Centre" and the portion of the village comprising 50 houses in which it is situated is denominated "The Rural Unit." The following programme of work is adopted :—

(1) Conducting economic surveys.
(2) Carrying out demonstrations on important crops like paddy, cocoanut, tapioca, banana and sugarcane.
(3) Making compost manure.
(4) Constructing model manure pits.
(5) Opening a vegetable garden.
(6) Raising green manure crops.
(7) Cultivating fodder crops.
(8) Introducing new crops.
(9) Maintaining a nursery.
(10) Keeping Bee-hives.
(11) Introducing improved Poultry.
(12) Maintaining good stud bulls and weeding out scrub bulls.
(13) Delivering Magic lantern lectures.
(14) Selecting and distributing seeds.
(15) Holding crop competitions.
(16) Organising Exhibitions.

It is gratifying to note that a good beginning has been made at all the Centres.

The work done in the three Agricultural Divisions during the year under review is described below :—

(i) *Southern Division*

Work at the following five Rural Centres, which was commenced during the previous year was continued during the year under review.

Name of Rural Centre		*Range*
1. Kottaram	,,	Nanjanad
2. Kadukkara	,,	Do.
3. Kadiapattanam	,,	Thuckalay
4. Perumpazhuthoor	,,	Neyyattinkara
5. Navaikulam	,,	Attingal

Kottaram Centre

A single crop of paddy alone is usually cultivated in most of the lands in this tract owing to inadequate supply of irrigation water and scanty rainfall. It was demonstrated at the Centre during the year under review that instead of leaving the lands fallow till an adequate supply of water was received for raising single crop of paddy, it would be profitable and practicable to cultivate cash crops like chillies and tomatoes and vegetables in rotation with paddy. Details of the cultivation of crops, out-turn and profit in respect of the holding of 5 acres at the Centre are furnished in the following statement :—

Season of Cultivation	Crop	Area		Cultivation Charges			Value of out-turn			Profit		
		Acre	Cent	Rs.	Ch.	C.	Rs.	Ch.	C.	Rs.	Ch.	C.
Kanni Season Introduced Crop.	Legumes	0	90	4	24	0	7	8	0	2	12	0
	Seasamum	2	..	12	21	0	52	1	8	39	8	8
	Chillies	1	50	196	24	14	389	23	3	192	26	10
Kumbhom	*Valsiramundan paddy.*											
Introduced crop.	Control plot	1	50	37	13	8	92	9	0	54	23	8
	Demonstration plot	1	50	50	15	8	132	2	0	81	14	8
	Cherumony paddy	1	50	46	6	3	181	26	6	135	20	3
	Plantains	..	30	50	5	0	92	24	0	42	19	0
	Tomatoes & border Vegetables			17	10	0	37 30	23 0	8 0	30	0	0
				416	8	1	1016	5	14	599	25	13

The income from this holding which used to be leased out was only Rs. 240, being the value of the *pattom of* 40 *Kottas* of paddy. But by adopting the system of cultivation described above, the income had been raised to Rs. 599-25-13. This is a remarkable achievement, which has captivated the neighbouring ryots and induced them to have recourse to the methods of cultivation demonstrated at the centre.

2. *Kadukkara Centre*

Demonstration of cultivating money crops alternatively with paddy, better methods of tillage and manuring and multiplication and distribution of selected strains of paddy were in progress at the centre during the year under review.

An economic survey of the village was conducted. An Agricultural Association was organised. A good seed bull is maintained by one of the members who is given a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50/-per year by the Department.

3. *Kadiapattanam Centre*

The lands are situated at the tail-ends of Irrigation channels and are imperfectly and inadequately irrigated in consequence. A short duration variety of paddy, *viz. Suryakanthi* selected from the Paddy Farm, Nagercoil, was introduced. A costly and laborious system of manuring paddy, called *Vettiveppu* in Malayalam, is in vogue. A judicious and cheap system of manuring which consists of incorporating in the soil a mixture of bonemeal and compost and top-dressing with powdered laurel oil-cake was successfully demonstrated during the year under report.

Compost manure was prepared at the Centre on a large scale with the sweepings available in the neighbouring Friday Market.

An enterprising ryot of the Centre furnished security and took up an agency on commission basis for the sale of manures supplied by the Department during the year under review.

4. Perumpazhuthoor Centre

An economic survey had been completed during the year. Manurial demonstrations on paddy, cocoanut, tapioca and banana were started. A suitable seed-bull and a stud buffalo were maintained at Perumpazhuthoor under the grant-in-aid system of the Department. As Muttacaud was found to be a better and more responsive and responsible Centre than Perumpazhuthoor, all the activities were diverted there from 1-11-1115.

5. Navaikulam Centre

The economic survey of the village conducted has revealed that the majority of the villagers are only tenant farmers and that they are heavily involved in debt. Two heavy yielding strains of paddy were introduced from the Paddy Farm. New crops like banana and pine-apple were popularised. Bee-keeping and Poultry farming were introduced for increasing the villagers' income. A seed-bull of the right type was maintained at the Centre during the year under review.

About a dozen prominent and influential ryots were selected from among the villagers in each unit, interviewed at regular intervals, advised on Agricultural improvements and induced to convey to their brother cultivators the new knowledge of Agriculture which they had acquired.

Many ryots prepared compost, according to the directions of the Agricultural Officer. 6 cwts. of bonemeal were issued to them free of cost in this connection.

In regard to the introduction of new crops, the cultivation of tomatoes, soya beans, ragi and Pusa chillies was demonstrated. Guinea grass tussocks were also distributed for cultivation.

66 lectures were delivered in this Division during the year under report.

The Divisional Agricultural Officer and the Agricultural Range Inspector, Attingal, also gave lectures on Agri-

cultural topics at the Rural Reconstruction Summer School, Warkala.

(ii) Central Division

The following 11 Rural Centres are run in this Division.

1.	Paravoor	-	Quilon
2.	Irumpanangad	-	Kottarakara
3.	Kottampally	-	Karunagapally
4.	Karuvatta	-	Karthigapally
5.	Mankombu	-	Ambalapuzha
6.	Chirayirambu	-	Thiruvella
7.	Mylapra	-	Pathanamthitta
8.	Erazha	-	Mavelikara
9.	Punalur	-	Pathanapuram
10.	Adoor	-	Kunnathoor
11.	Shencotta	-	Shencotta

Economic survey of all the 11 Centres has been completed. Manurial demonstrations on cocoanut, paddy, bananas, sugarcane, tapioca and vegetables were conducted. Model manure pits, preparation of compost, vegetable garden, fodder grasses, improved Poultry, Bee-hives and nursery were also introduced. Seed-bulls were maintained at the Rural Centres of Adoor, Erazha, Karuvatta, Mylapra, Mankombu and Chirayirambu under the grant-in-aid system.

The Rural Centres of Mylapra and Karuvatta have departmental agency manure Depot on commission basis.

57 lectures were delivered during the year.

Classes were also conducted at the Rural Summer Schools of Paravoor and Ollannoor. Iron ploughs, sprayers, Bee-hives and honey-extractors were demonstrated.

As regards new crops Tomatoes, ragi, soya bean and sugarcane were introduced. A list of permanent clients was maintained.

(iii) Northern Division

The following are the 9 Rural Centres in this Division.

1. Manjaly Parur

2.	Pulluvazhy	-	Kunnathunad
3.	Thodupuzha	-	Thodupuzha
4.	Kozhipally	-	Muvattupuzha
5.	Puliyannoor	-	Meenachil
6.	Puthupally	-	Kottayam
7.	Kurumpanadom		Changanacherry
8.	Thalayolaparambu		Vaikom
9.	Varanaud	-	Sherthalai

Demonstrations on cocoanut were started at all the Centres. Demonstrations on paddy were also conducted at all the Centres except Puliyannoor. Model manure pits, preparation of compost, fodder crops, green manure crops, vegetables, nursery, Bee-hives and improved Poultry were introduced.

Good seed-bulls were maintained at Parur, Puliyannoor, Puthupally, Kurumpanadom, Varanaud and Thalayolaparambu during the year under report.

34 lectures were delivered in this Divison.

Compost-making was popularised. 869 lbs. of bone meal were distributed among ryots free of cost for making compost.

Tobacco as a new industrial crop was cultivated successfully at Kozhipally near Kothamangalam, soya bean at Thalayolaparambu and tomato at Varanaud were also introduced successfully. A register of permanent clients was maintained.

A New Economic Era

From the very commencement of His Highness' reign he felt convinced of the need for industrialisation as the only key to economic prosperity. In opening the Rubber Factory in 1935 His Highness said :—

> "Travancore being mainly an agricultural State, the extension of cultivation is subject to various natural limitations, but the needs of a growing population demand a supplementing of our income and our resources by the encouragement of industrial pursuits, more particularly as we possess an abund-

ant supply of raw materials and are able to command cheap labour and transport facilities, not to mention the electric power which is available in sufficient quantities and which will provide the requisite energy."

It is the peculiar good luck of Travancore that it has been able to secure the valuable services of an eminent Indian of outstanding ability and acknowledged reputation as Dewan wedded to the same creed of industrialisation. "One of my ambitions" said Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, when he accepted the Dewanship of the State, "is to carry out the ideal of His Highness, namely, relieving the agricultural depression and the rapid industrialisation of the State on right lines, bearing in mind the fact that Travancore rejoices in the possession of unlimited resources which will enable her to start manufactures, like those connected with paper, rubber, sugar and artificial silk." Steps were taken to implement this announcement.

It is well known that the triple roots of any industrial concern are capital, power and means of transport. It was a Herculian task to provide all these three facilities at the same time. Still Government deserve credit for securing these to the people. In the establishment of the Travancore Credit Bank, the Government of India had to be moved. The Finance Member of the Central Government, the Hon'ble Sir James Grigg, was induced to come here and understand for himself the conditions of the country. He visited the State and, with his co-operation and support, the Travancore Credit Bank was brought into being with a view to help local effort in the financing of industrial schemes. This was an achievement which only an ex-Member of the Viceroy's Council who later on became Dewan of the State could do.

As regards the motive power the Dewan observed when laying the corner-stone for the Sri Chitra Mill at Alwaye on the 5th November 1936, that "cheap power is the beginning of industrial growth." For this purpose also

the remarkable resources of the experienced architect and practical engineer were available in the courageous author of the Mettur Project. Though there were in the archives of the Secretariat very valuable reports of Engineers who had strongly recommended as early as 1919, the conversion into "white coal" of some of the falls in the High Range including the very river which has since been harnessed and, though these documents could have been utilised, no action was taken until Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar established his touch with the State in 1931 as Legal and Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maharaja. The preliminary steps of this project were started at his suggestion in 1933, and the foundation of the Power House was laid in 1935 by His Highness. When, however, a year later he became Dewan, the momentum in the administrative machinery increased and the project materialised last year when electricity was placed at the disposal of the public.

The Transport Department

The third factor, namely, means of transport, was then tackled and, with the organisation of the State Transport, this question was solved. For some time past, the question of Transport in the State was under the consideration of Government and a Committee had been appointed to consider the question and make suggestions. The recommendation of this Committee was that Government should take under its control the transport in the State. In pursuance of this recommendation Government decided, as a first step, to assume management of the passenger transport on the Southern Road which has the heaviest traffic in the State. Mr. E. G. Salter, who has had considerable experience in the management of motor transport, was appointed Superintendent. The service was started at the beginning of Kumbham 1113 (February 1938). In the beginning there were 60 vehicles. A new feature in the service was the introduction of parcel service in conjunction with the passenger service by which

goods can be carried to and fro from any station on the route over which the departmental vehicles run. The receipts under the passenger services till the end of 1113 (1937-38) amounted to Rs. 3,51,444. During the same year about 13,000 parcels were received and transmitted by the agencies whose number was 21. The receipts under Parcels Service amounted to Rs. 2,874. The total mileage operated during the year was 13,69,302 miles and the number of passengers carried was 23,07,323. The total receipts of the Department for the year were Rs. 3,56,253 and the working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,21,806. The total capital expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 6,03,088. In the same year a Town service for Trivandrum was started in addition to other services in important routes. In 1114 the work of the Transport Department was more or less confined to the operation and improvement of the services already taken up. The Department undertook, under certain terms and conditions, lorry service between Munnar and the Willingdon Island in the Cochin Harbour. The planting produce had till then been carried over to British Territory by land and exported from there. This was a loss to Travancore. Though the transport of goods of the K. D. H. P. Company Ltd., Munnar, began only towards the last quarter of 1114 M. E. (May 1939) i. e. for 2½ months, the Department secured Rs. 60,679 from this lorry service alone. The Parcels Service continued to be operated as in the previous year and it showed better results. There was a rich crop of mangoes in South Travancore which found a ready market in the north and consequently there was a regular flow of mangoes in that direction. Vegetables continued to be the main source of receipts under Parcel Service. 49,96,304 Passengers, 33,400 parcels (excluding luggages of passengers and Postal and Anchal mails or Travancore indigenous system of Postal service) and 2,763 tons of goods were carried during the year. The total mileage involved was 31,91,696. The receipts under passenger fare alone amounted to Rs. 8,03,544 out of a total revenue

of Rs. 8,82,531. The total income represents an average of 7·7 chuckrams per vehicle mile as against chuckrams 7·3 in the previous year. The political disturbances in the State engineered by the Travancore State Congress and its allied organisations resulted in very severe losses to the Transport Department. Mob violence caused a serious, though temporary, reduction in traffic and increase of expenditure under repairs and renewals occasioned by the damage inflicted by violent crowds on vehicles. It is seen that, from the middle of Chingam to the middle of Vrischigam, the traffic receipts were below the average. The net profits went down to the extent of Rs. 60,000 entirely as a result of the civil disobedience movement. The capital investment at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 8,39,885. During the year the fleet of vehicles was also strengthened. The total number of vehicles in operation at the close of the year was 101. The installation of a Streamline Filter for purifying waste engine oil marked an important addition to the plant and machinery. The Filter is capable of reclaiming about 80 per cent of pure oil from the used oil drained from the engines. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 8,82,531 and the working expenses to Rs. 6,92,390, the net receipts being Rs. 1,90,141. The Department has been providing all amenities for passengers. Many of the buses are equipped with saloon bodies to afford the maximum comfort to passengers. A high standard of tidiness is maintained in the case of vehicles and the seats are regularly sprayed with insecticides. Waiting Rooms are provided at all principal stations. A point worth noting is that civility and courtesy towards the passengers are insisted on; any member of the staff acting otherwise is severely dealt with.

Charcoal Gas for Petrol

For some time past the Department has been engaged on making experiments of far-reaching importance, the object being to make Travancore as self-sufficient as possible in the matter of motor fuel by substituting charcoal gas and alcohol

for petrol in operating the Department's large fleet of buses. The results obtained so far have been very encouraging and it is confidently expected that, when the entire fleet is run on charcoal, a saving of 70 per cent could be effected in fuel costs alone. The possibility of utilising producer gas to drive automobiles has long been engaging the attention of scientists all over the world. It has now been definitely established in Travancore that it is a practical proposition. The efforts of the Transport Department have been to carry out some improvements in the design of generators so as to minimise the existing defects. For the past fifteen months the Department has been carrying on a series of experiments on different types of generators and has now succeeded in designing an equipment which marks a great improvement on the types hitherto used. With this type of generator, although petrol is admittedly used for starting purposes, the engine can be switched over for operation on gas within a few minutes and, the use of petrol to make up the loss in power when climbing ascents, is completely dispensed with. This new type of generator was installed in a Chevrolet Chassis which was on trial run in almost all parts of Trivandrum and on the steepest ascents in the suburbs. The performance was excellent. A comparison of fuel costs when operating on petrol and charcoal reveals surprising results. One sack of charcoal costing approximately 10 annas and one-tenth of a gallon of petrol suffice for running a bus for a distance of 42 miles, while three gallons of petrol are required when operated exclusively on petrol. At current rates, the former costs nearly 12½ As. and the latter nearly Rs. 5/-, a difference of Rs. 4-3½ As. This means that in an ideal condition when all buses run on charcoal gas, the department can effect a saving of Re. 1-6½ As. on every gallon of petrol which would have been required. In other words, complete conversion of the fleet of vehicles means a saving of 75 per cent in fuel costs. This vast difference in operating costs is a special feature for India where the price of petrol is unduly inflated by tariffs. So far as Travancore

is concerned, it is of vital consequence as the State can maintain a certain amount of independence of outside sources for the supply of motor fuel. Another point to be remembered is that the amount spent on charcoal fuel is spent in Travancore itself where there is an ever-lasting and continuous supply of charcoal. Thus two advantages are gained. Firstly, a saving of 75 per cent is effected on fuel alone, and secondly, every cash spent on this charcoal is spent in Travancore. A further step forward in the matter of utilising indigenous fuel is the use of alcohol in place of petrol for starting purposes which has also received the attention of the Department with considerable success. According to the latest tests, for operating a fully loaded bus from Trivandrum to Quilon and back a distance of 88 miles, 108 lbs. of charcoal costing Re. 1-6 As. 6 P. and 1/6th gallon alcohol costing two annas two pies only are required. This works out at 3·36 pies per mile. A similar type of vehicle covering the same distance, but operating on petrol will cost 20·87 pies per mile. The present fleet of buses will consume approximately 9 tons of charcoal. If and when the services throughout the entire State are operated by the Transport Department about 20 tons per day may be required. Though the Transport Department has been working in Travancore hardly for about three years, the Department under Mr. Salter has been able to effect a revolution which will most advantageously affect not only Travancore but will also revolutionise motor transport in India, especially on an occasion like this when we have to import petrol from other sources where there are restrictions for the export of this fuel.

State Aid to Industries

On the important question of State-aid to industries the Travancore Government holds the view that it is entirely a matter for private enterprise, the State Government rendering all possiple facilities. This policy was explained in unequivocal terms by Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the

Dewan when he laid the corner-stone for the Sri Chitra Mill at Alwaye. He said:—

> "What the object of Government should be is to show to the people possibilities of industries and trade, to give them demonstrations to start model factories, and after the people have learnt to stand on their legs, to step aside leaving it to the people to develop them as real national assets. That ought to be the function of the State in industrial matters (*cheers*). It is that policy that should guide the Travancore State in the approach towards its industrial and commercial problems. That policy, rightly pursued, with the resources I have indicated is bound to bring Travancore to the fore-front."

He has reiterated this policy on numerous occasions i. e., whenever there was relevant need for it. He made the position of Government clear on this point when the Rubber Factory which is to be run by a private agency was opened by him on the 4th January, 1941. He said:—

> "It is not the function and will not be the preoccupation of the Travancore Government to take upon themselves any commercial enterprise. What is needed in a commercial enterprise is enterprise. The element of risk is there; the element of speculation must be there; the elements of daring and courage should be there. Whatever be the other virtues of a Government, these virtues do not co-exist with it. Advertisement, skill and salesmanship are completely absent in a Governmental machinery..... Government are the unfittest instrument, the most inappropriate method of running any commercial enterprise. I had opportunities of running commercial enterprises as a member of this Government here and also elsewhere as a member of other Governments. Having come to that conclusion, the Government of Travancore have made up its mind that, if local enterprise, local capital, local energy, local cooperation and coordination are forthcoming, they will be stimulated, helped, encouraged and subsidised for the purpose of these industrial and manufacturing enterprises. But, if local enterprise, local capital and local energy are not forthcoming, Government dare not, must not and will not allow this opportunity to escape and rest upon the oblivious past, regardless of the demands of the present

> and the exigencies of the future. And, therefore, it is with that object in view that I have set forward to get people in India who will exploit the possibilities of this country for the next three or five years."

Roused by an impulse of patriotism and by a passionate sense of nationalism welling in his heart as an Indian, the Dewan added in feeling terms :—

> "I would have been very reluctant, with all my respect for the family (of Sir Chunilal Madhavlal, the present lessee) to have entrusted the working of the factory to him if I could have found a competent Travancorean to take up the work. I tried my best to find one. I assure you, Sir Madhavlal, that I would have fought hard against you possibly with success, if I were fortunate in securing purely Travancorean enterprise for taking up the work; and the fact that you are here is not a good certificate for us here in Travancore."

Although this may not be the last word on the subject, it is quite possible that this vital problem of State aid to industries is open to difference of opinion. If the view in favour of State aid is accepted, there are again other questions arising out of it, *viz.*, how far the State may go, in what points it may be extended etc., etc.,. In such a highly controversial matter there is ample justification for the State keeping aloof on the safe ground that it may not be desirable or right on the part of one Dewan to commit the State to financial entanglements of a serious nature in which his successors may not share the same views. It is equally true that not a single pie of the taxpayers' money should be spent except on schemes of definite and assured success about which no one could hold out a decided and favourable opinion. At the same time it is well known that the industrial tradition in Travancore seems to be that the people are unnecessarily shy of capital and culpably slow in moving from the old rut. It is high time that they moved forward from their slumber. I am aware that during the past 30 years or so several concerns like the Tenmalai Match Factory, Alwaye Match Factory, Cardamom Cultivation Company, Ltd., the Travancore Sugars, were started in

which the initiative came from non-Travancoreans. But they were all failures because Travancoreans did not purchase enough shares. In the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals (restarted) the Travancore Credit Bank, &c., the share of the Travancoreans has not been very encouraging. Take for instance, the planting industry which has been thriving astonishingly well, although it has all along been a private concern. How long are we going to sit with folded hands allowing, with our eyes wide open, foreigners to rob us of the wealth of our raw materials? That is the crux of the whole problem from an economic and financial standpoint. There is already the challenge thrown out by the Dewan that he is already in communication with foreign businessmen to open up another new industry in the manufacture of tea chests for which there are excellent facilities in the State. This too is not new information. About 30 years ago the Forest Department discovered this source of treasure and addressed Government on the subject with the result that a Government Order was issued explaining the scope for enterprise in this respect and giving a list of trees from which tea chests could be made. Till now there has been no response from the public. Now that a Government with foresight and vision have offered not only ordinary facilities but have promised that these enterprises "will be stimulated, helped, encouraged and subdisised", Travancoreans ought to cast off their shyness and diffidence, strike the iron when it is hot and help in the inauguration of a new era in the industrial regeneration of the land which is the key to the economic prosperity of the people.

Government Initiative—Rubber & Ceramic Factories

Government have done their part by establishing a Rubber Factoy and showing it to be a success. In the Ceramic Factory another industrial concern has been started with assured chances of success. In 1936 an investigation was conducted into the china clay resources of the State. A leading authority in Ceramics in India, *viz.*, Professor S. Dogar Singh, who was Head of the Ceramic Technology,

Hindu University, Benares, was invited for the purpose. Exhaustive chemical and physical tests carried on in the laboratories of that institution proved conclusively that the china clay occurring in the State was of an exceptional quality and the best in India. Other independent tests conducted also established the same conclusions arrived at. Actual work was started by the end of 1936. It may be stated that the Ceramic Industries are situated on the shore of the Ashtamudi lake, a large backwater area which connects the jetties of the factory with the ports of Alleppey and Cochin. This particular locality was selected on account of the occurrence of an almost inexhaustible deposit of good china clay and facility of transport both by backwaters and by land. The disposal of waste sand and other materials is a great and serious problem in other foreign clay concerns. But in Travancore it is a paying proposition for the reason that reclamation of land is effected thereby. The Ceramic Factory at Kundara has two sections—one dealing with the washing of china clay and the other with the manufacture of porcelain and refractory goods, both being inter-connected. The working plant has a capacity of 500 tons of clay per month. The wining or the process of washing and purification, consists in making the clay flow over a series of beds with different specific gradients in a colosidal form. Impurities of different specific gravities settle down in appropriate beds so that by the time the clay solution reaches the final settling tanks it is nothing but pure kaolin. A leading firm of Bombay, Messrs. The Industrial and Agricultural Engineering Co., have contracted to purchase the entire production of the first quality china clay from month to month.

The manufacture of Ceramic ware is an important item that has been taken up. The factory has been equipped with the latest type of machinery, automatic and semi-automatic costing Rs. 3½ lakhs, for the manufacture of a variety of Ceramic ware such as crockery of different kinds, electrical insulators, firebricks and special refractory goods laboratory

ware. It is of interest to mention here that the State Ceramic concerns are the only one in India to put on the market sillimanite, zircon and graphite articles. The importance of Ceramic works will be easily understood from the fact that in America sixteen Universities are teaching this subject and conducting researches of far-reaching importance for the manufacture of Ceramic ware. The scientific side of the industry is being developed by basic research departments of these Universities. The refined china clay is thoroughly tested before the consignments are sent to various mill centres, where Travancore china clay has begun to be preferred not only because of its quality but also because of the economy it effects in the manufacture. The laboratories also carry out physical and chemical tests on the various raw materials the industry uses and the manufactured articles. At present such heavy types of articles as sanitary ware, electrical goods, stone-ware, laboratory ware refractories, graphite articles, etc., are made in the factory. As the customs duty and the transport charges on these articles are rather high, they naturally make competition impossible, so that the industry need not be afraid of competition either from India or other foreign countries, for the simple reason that other factories in India have to purchase raw materials from distant places and the means of transport is another discouraging factor. But in the Kundara factory raw materials are available at the gate of the factory. These are all advantages not obtainable anywhere else. It is earnestly to be hoped that these natural facilities will be availed of to the fullest extent and that the factory would be a great success in every way.

The Sri Chitra Mill at Alwaye

The Sri Chitra Mill at Alwaye has already proved what a concern of its dimensions could do for Travancore not only in creating interest of the masses but also in solving, in however small a scale, the menacing problem of unemployment, though last year the working of the Mill was not satisfactory chiefly because of the war conditions which prevailed throughout the world. Prices of all articles required for running the

Mill advanced abruptly, following the outbreak of hostilities early in the year, but there was no corresponding rise in the price of finished products commensurate with the increased cost of production. The loss of export markets for the produce and manufactures of the country lowered the purchasing power of the people and this greatly affected consumption. Under these adverse conditions it was not possible for the Sri Chitra Mill to extend its activities and the progress expected during the year was not realised. The high standard of the Mill products was, however, maintained in spite of the low prices realised, and the increased manufacturing cost. The Sri Chitra Mill cloth still retains its reputation in all the markets. The Mill employs 100 workers.

A cheap grain shop was opened by the Mill authorities for the benefit of its workers where grains, cloth and other necessities of life are sold to them on credit at pre-war rates to prevent a rise in their cost of living as a result of the war and this is greatly patronised by the workers. The benefit they derive from this welfare activity of the Mill corresponds to an increase in their wages of about 1½ annas per head per day.

Although Workmen's Compensation Act has not yet come into operation in Travancore, the Mill has been giving compensation to injured persons from the time it started working on the same scale as in force in British India.

The Travancore Sugars and Tinctures which had been shut down for some time was restarted by Messrs. Parry & Co., Madras, as a limited Company. It now works successfully and has paid its dues to Government over and above the profit it made.

Another big concern which will soon come into existence is the Aluminium Factory to be worked by a Syndicate of Anglo-American businessmen of considerable influence and experience. It has already purchased 50 acres of land at Alwaye and begun the construction of the necessary buildings and the hope is entertained that it will largely add to the

material advancement of the State. The Government have already promised this Syndicate power and other reasonable facilities. The Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme is to be enlarged with a view to supply them with electricity.

Another important step that has been taken is a Geological survey recently undertaken by Dr. J. L. Gillson, an American expert, who has discovered large resources of lime stone in the High Range which could be most advantageously used for the manufacture of cement in which, it is believed, the State could be made self-sufficient. (*Vide* page 8 for further particulars)

Considerable encouragement has been given to the Paper Mill at Punalur which was struggling for its existence. By purchasing almost the whole quantity of paper produced by the Mill the Government have given it ample help. The Government are thus rendering every help to industrial concerns started and conducted as private enterprise.

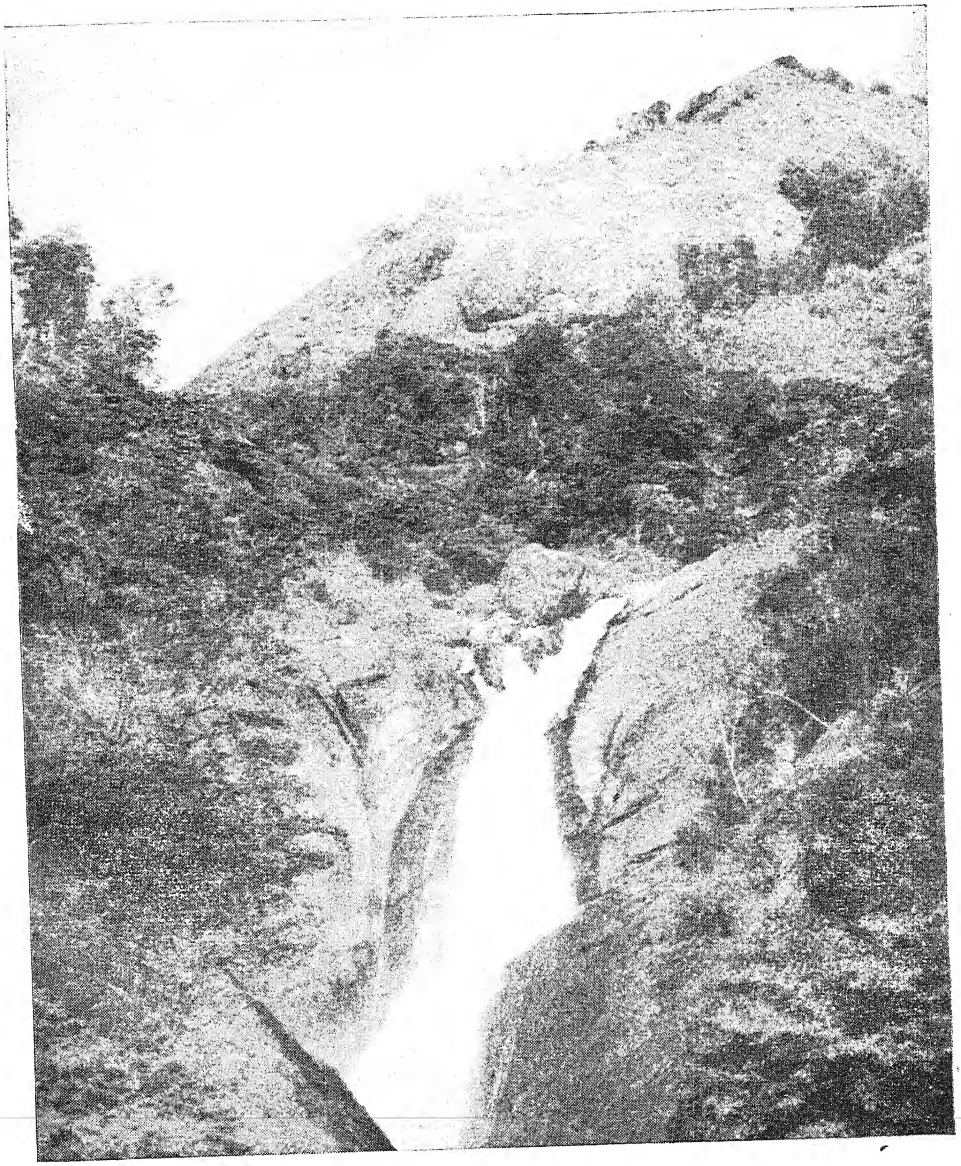
Progress of Electrical Development

Electric Supply undertakings are of recent growth in Travancore. Although the first power station was in existence in the High Ranges as early as 1905, it was only towards the latter part of 1927 that Government created a separate organisation to carry out a programme of electrical development in the State. With the inauguration of this Department, electric supply was first introduced in Trivandrum, the capital of the State, in March, 1929. The beginnings were very modest, but during the last 12 years of the operation of the Station, substantial progress has been made in all directions, as a result of the impetus given by His Highness the Maharaja whose cherished desire was that the supply of power was the basic foundation of industrial advancement. The capital outlay on this undertaking till last financial year was Rs. 11 lakhs. The chief feature of this scheme was that it has been paying a satisfactory return on its investment ever since it started working. A substantial depreciation fund has

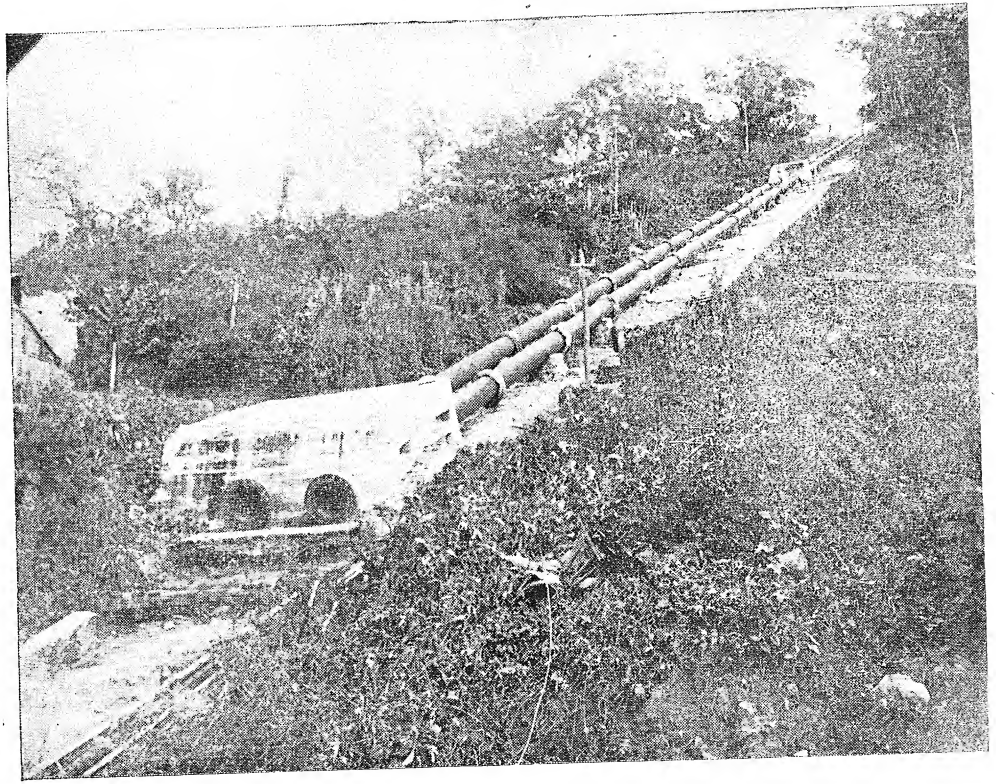
been built up in the meantime and the balance after adjusting interest and depreciation is credited to a reserve fund. The gross revenue during the last financial year was Rs. 2·44 lakhs and the total generation 1·35 million units. The number of consumers at present is about 2,600. There are 66 miles of L. T. overhead distribution lines besides 16 miles of 3·3 K. V. underground cables. Although Trivandrum is not an industrial town, it has been possible to develop a power load by supplying energy to consumers like Printing Presses, the Rubber Factory, Ice Factory, Flour Mills, Rice Mills, Pumping plant, Cold Storage, etc. The tariffs in force compare favourably with those in similar undertakings in South India. Power is obtained from a Thermal Station with a capacity of about 1,100 K. W.

The lead thus given by Government in the supply of electric power to the capital, has had very encouraging results, as two other undertakings worked by private agencies, one in Kottayam and the other in Nagercoil, were shortly afterwards inaugurated. The former came into existence early in 1932, while the latter was put into operation towards the middle of 1934. The Kottayam Electric Supply is now self-supporting and distributes power to nearly 700 consumers from a net work of about 23 miles. The Nagercoil Electric Supply was initiated about two years later and it has made very satisfactory progress in the meantime. This scheme now supplies power to nearly 550 consumers from a distribution net work of about 26 miles.

Based on the experience gained in the working of the Trivandrum Electric Supply undertaking, the Municipal Town of Quilon followed with a scheme for the supply of power. This being an important industrial town in the State, The scheme was inaugurated towards the middle of 1934. The capital expenditure on this undertaking is about Rs. 3¼ lakhs. Very rapid progress was made in its operation during the last three years, the generation towards the end of the last year having reached over 2 million units per annum, which



The Pallivasal Falls



The Penstock Lines, Pallivasal

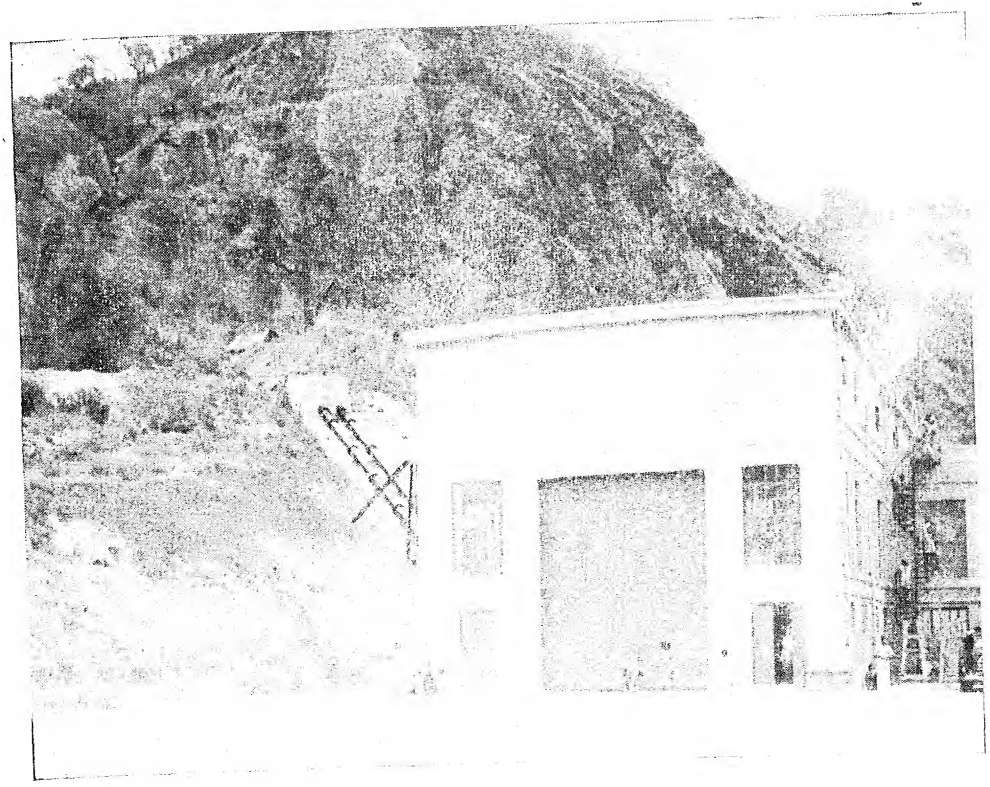
brought in a gross revenue of about Rs. 1½ lakhs. The supply covered about 20 miles of 11 K. V. lines, 45 miles of L. T. distribution and 2½ miles of 3·3 K. V. underground cables. It now caters for about 850 consumers. Power was supplied from a Thermal Station of about 630 K. W. capacity till the supply was changed over to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric System in May 1940, as on account of its rapid industrial growth, it has not been possible to meet the power requirements from this small Thermal Station to any appreciable extent. The total capacity of installed power plants in Quilon is at present well over 2,000 H. P. But many of them are in a very unsatisfactory condition on account of their old age, and will necessarily have to be replaced by new and better machinery, when it should be possible to secure all these loads, now that the Hydro-Electric Supply is available from the Pallivasal System, the bulk of which is now utilised by the various Ilmenite Factories, the Cotton Mills and the Ceramic Factory at Kundara.

In view of the fact that there has been a great demand for electric power the Government took up the question of inaugurating a large power supply scheme by harnessing some of the most suitable water falls in the State for this development. A preliminary survey of the Hydro-electric possibilities of the State was carried out as early as 1919 by Mr. F. J. Jacob, the then Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department. Six years later another investigation was conducted by Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, the present Electrical Engineer, as a result of which Government came to the conclusion that the development of a power scheme by utilising the falls in the Mudirapuzha river possessed great economic possibilities. Accordingly, proposals were forwarded to Government in 1930 for a detailed investigation of this scheme. These proposals were sanctioned in December 1931 and the detailed investigations were taken up and completed by 1933. Actual work was started in 1934. The scheme, though not necessarily the largest of the potential water power

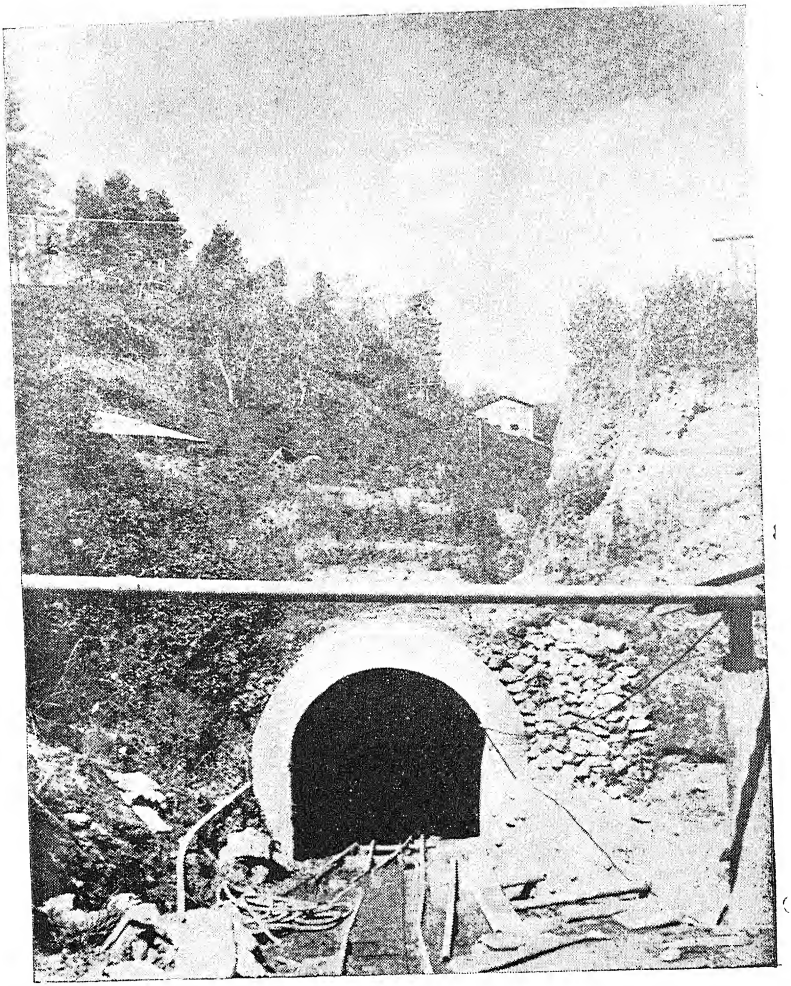
resources of the State, is one of the most economical ones for development in stages and it is expected to be self-supporting in a very short time.

The present scheme utilises the head available in the Mudrapuzha river (a tributary of the Periyar) which passes through Munnar and, after it leaves the High Range hills, drops in a series of cascades down to the plains below. This river draws its water from the catchment area of the K. D. Hills which have a very heavy rainfall thus ensuring a comparatively plentiful supply of water from a relatively small catchment area.

Almost all the works in connection with the first stage of development of the P. H. E. Project were completed by the beginning of 1940 and it was inaugurated in March of the same year when the supply was switched on by Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., the Dewan, from the Pallivasal Generating Station in the presence of a distinguished gathering. The scheme as now completed comprises a temporary diversion dam, a pressure tunnel of 10,200 ft. in length $9' \times 8'$ section and two penstocks each 7,800 ft. in length, the generating station and transmission lines extending up to Alwaye on the West and up to Quilon in the South. The Power Station has three 11,000 volts 3 phase 50 cycle alternator sets each of 4,500 K. W. capacity directly coupled to pelton wheels operating at a head of 1,980 ft. The total effective capacity of the station is 9,000 K. W. as the third generating set will be used only as a standby. Power is transmitted to the plains at 66,000 volts. The transmission system consists of 134 miles of 66 K. V. double circuit lines carried on steel towers connecting the generating station with 5 major sub-stations at Kothamangalom, Alwaye, Pallom, Mavelikara and Kundara besides 26 miles of 33 K. V. single circuit line connecting Alleppey with Mavelikara. The mains distribution comprises of 130 miles of 11 K. V. single circuit and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of double circuit lines and about 92 miles of L. T. distri-



The Power House, Pallivasal



The Tunnel at Pallivasal

bution net work. Almost all the Municipal Towns coming within the net work of the P. H. E. supply have been provided with low tension distribution. Thus the first stage of the scheme covers a large portion of the North and Central Travancore and it has been so designed that extensions to the transmission system can be made easily to distribute power to other areas such as Peermade in the east and Trivandrum in the south when such extensions are justified by the load conditions.

The availability of electric power in most places in Travancore with the completion of the Hydro-Electric Scheme and the very low rates of tariff now offered are expected to open up great possibilities in the industrial and agricultural development in the State. The progress so far made (as seen from the last four months' working of the scheme) has been quite up to expectations. By the middle of 1940 the system had a connected load of 4,155 K. W. and 1,934 consumers distributed over 19 distribution centres. The peak load of the generating station had reached 2,220 K. W. and the generation 3·36 million units during the 4½ months of working. A number of power consumers came on the system soon after the inauguration of the supply, some of the largest of them being Messrs. K. D. H. P Co., Messrs. Sri Chitra Mill, Alwaye, The Kottayam Electric Supply Agency, Messrs. A. D. Cotton Mills, Messrs. Travancore Minerals Co., Messrs. F. X. Periera & Sons, Messrs. Hopkin and Williams, and Messrs. Associated Minerals Co.

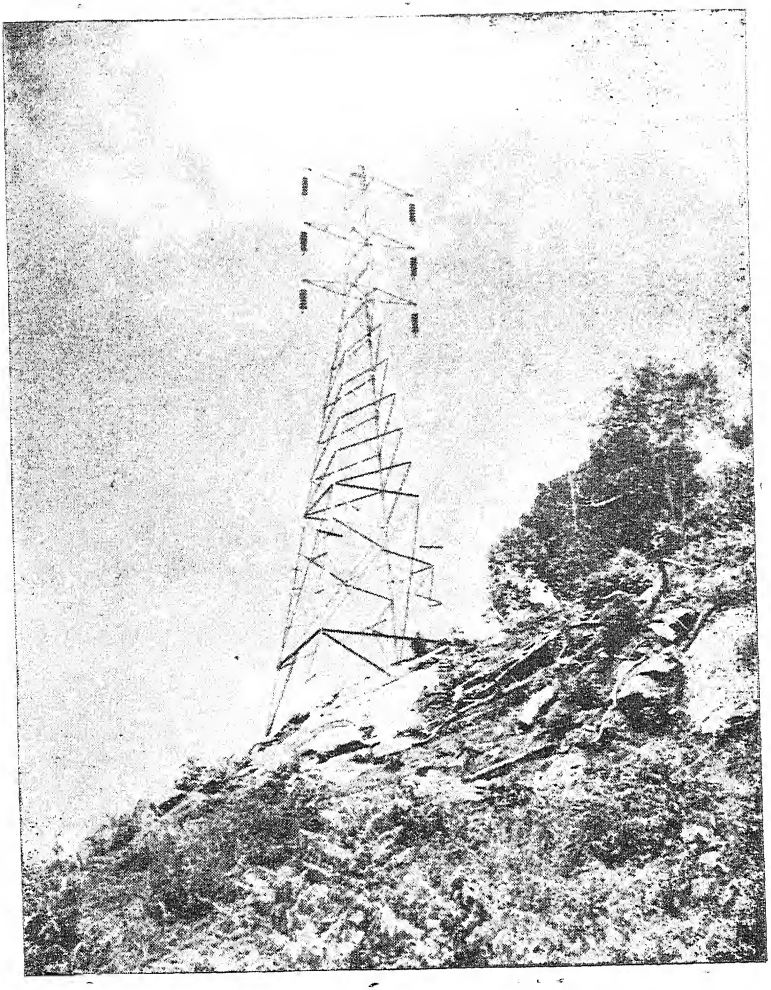
The Department has been keenly alive to the need of agriculturists and to the large potentialities of extension of cultivation of paddy in which the State has to depend on Burma. The Government have already in hand a scheme under which every endeavour is being made to increase the production of paddy and thus make Travancore self-sufficient. The large area of 1,00,000 acres of *Punja* land affords scope to implement this scheme and the introduction of electric power to dewater this water-logged area having been already

appreciated by the agriculturists in these parts, the prospects of enlarged use of electricty are bright and are reassuring both from the economical and financial points of view. There is again the sugar cane cultivation which in north and Central Travancore is carried on as a cottage industry. At present there is an area of about 13,000 acres under sugar cane. On account of the successful experiments and demonstrations conducted by the Agricultural Department the ryots have become more alive to the importance of this as a cottage industry as is seen from the fact that the Alwaye farm has been converted into a sugarcane farm. The availability of electricity will naturally go a long way towards further expansion of this industry as this power can be used for crushing sugar cane as well as for irrigation.

A demonstration carried out in the Thiruvella Taluk in the application of electric drive for sugarcane crushing has been so extremely encouraging that applications for extending the scope of the supply to the entire sugarcane area in Eraviperur, Vallamkulam, Kozhancherry and other neighbouring places were taken up for detailed investigation.

Experiments carried out in the previous year showed the ryots that electrical pumping would reduce their costs very considerably and there were several applications for extending the facilities for electric pumping during the pumping season this year. A proposal for extending the 11 K. V. supply covering a net work of 25 miles for this purpose at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs was sanctioned by Government and the work was taken in hand towards the middle of 1940. About 18 units of 50 H. P. electric motors was installed and an area of 2,400 acres of *Punja* fields was dewatered in this year's pumping season. It is expected that about 60 motors will be made available for the next season for dewatering an additional area of about 8,000 acres.

Demonstrations in lift irrigation were also carried out last year. In Kuthiathodu village in Kunnathunad Taluk and in Thiruvella lift irrigation experiments by pumping water in



The High Tension Lines, Pallivasal

paddy fields showed that it would be profitable to raise a second crop by utilising electric energy for the purpose. Similarly, demonstrations in watering cocoanut gradens by electric pumping carried out in Parur showed that substantial saving could be effected in such agricultural operations. A scheme for irrigating an area of about 10,000 acres in North Travancore is being studied in detail now.

Apart from these demonstrations all reasonable aid in other directions is also rendered to would-be consumers for popularising the use of electricity. Proposals for the supply of electrical machinery on hire and hire purchase system to consumers were sanctioned by Government in September 1940 and the response from consumers in taking advantage of this scheme has been so great that within about 3 months purchase of electric motors totalling nearly 1,500 H. P. have been arranged.

Among the large consumers expected to be supplied in the near future, the Aluminium Production Company of India Ltd., Alwaye, deserves special mention. A satisfactory agreement was reached between Government and this Company towards July 1940 whereby Government have agreed to supply 4,500 K. W. of firm power from the middle of 1941 and 7,500 K. W. by the middle of 1944 for an Aluminium smelter plant to be installed near Alwaye. The Company will be requiring another block of power aggregating to a total of 14,000 K. W. for bringing their factory to its fullest output. Government have agreed to make this block of power also available within one year after the Company begins to take 7,500 K. W. An agreement is also expected to be reached very shortly with the Cochin Government for the supply of power for the entire requirements of that State. The demand from this source will be about 3,500 K. W.

The agreement with the Aluminium Production Co., has necessitated the full development of the P. H. E. scheme so as to bring the generation and transmission capacity to cope with their large demand. This development will consist of the

installation of 3 further generating sets of 7,500 K. W. each, 2 more penstocks and the provision of adequate storages in the upper reaches of the Mudrapuzha river. Two more 66 K. V. transmission lines from Pallivasal to Alwaye are also proposed to be constructed. The preliminary work on all these has already been taken in hand and tenders for the various items have been invited.

The following is the official forecast of Revenue from this scheme :—

	K. W.	Revenue
1111	4,500	Rs. 6 Lakhs
1116-17	5,000	,, 7 ,,
1118-19	7,000	,, 10 ,,
1120-24	12,000	,, 16 ,,

From the load developments now anticipated it is expected that within the next ten years the maximum demand of the systems will reach about 29,000 K. W. with an annual generation of over 200 million units. It is anticipated that the scheme will be able to yield very substantial profits after allowing for working expenses, depreciation and interest in a very short time.

The total capital expenditure on the Project till the end of the last financial year was Rs.131·28 Lakhs.

It will be useful to recall here that Mysore's industrial advancement and economic prosperity have been due entirely to the inauguration of electricity by harnessing the Cauvery river at Sivasamudram and making electricity available to the people shortly after His Highness the late Sir Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Maharaja of happy memory ascended the Throne. The same story has repeated itself in Travancore also under the gracious auspices of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja under the inspiring advice and with the unstinted help of a mastermind. If Mysore which was the first in all India to generate electricity from water, had a Sir K. Seshadri Iyer to initiate an Electric project, Travancore has been fortunate enough to secure the valuable services

of a Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, but for whose drive, statesmanship and experience the Pallivasal scheme would not have been a *fait accompli*. Let us fervently hope that from this scheme will flow a never-failing river of prosperity and plenty which will amply justify the period being designated "Sri Chitra Age."

The Telephone Scheme

"The present distance of Travancore from the seat of Government does constitute some material obstacle to personal relations."

This remark was made by Lord Willingdon, the late Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in the course of his Banquet speech delivered in December, 1933, when His Excellency paid a visit to Travancore. Since then much water has passed under the bridge. The historical saying *"Dilli dur ast"* which was used to denote the geographical distance of Travancore from Delhi has become a dead letter, so far as Travancore is concerned. Ever since His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja assumed ruling powers in November, 1931, many progressive measures of administrative improvement have been introduced. One of these was the Telephone established first in the State and then between the State and Delhi. This scheme is now in working order. This progressive move came first from Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., soon after he accepted the office of Dewan in October, 1936. Trivandrum, having been made the centre of an aerodrome and aerial connection having been established with the outside stations in India and consequently with the outside world, the next step was to connect the capital of the State with Delhi. His Highness the Maharaja who is ever solicitous about the happiness and prosperity of his fifty lakhs of subjects readily fell in with the scheme of his trusted Minister. From the time that the political jurisdiction was transferred from the Government of Madras to the Government of India

it has been felt that the distance was a serious handicap. This handicap it was that His Highness wanted to remove not only on administrative and political considerations but also on those of public convenience and development of the State.

The Telephone activities in Travancore began in June, 1931 when the Central Exchange with a 100 Magneto Board in Trivandrum commenced regular service with 42 subscribers. Since its inauguration the exchange proved so popular that extensions to the board were necessitated from time to time. In 1935 a 50-line automatic exchange was also installed in the same exchange building to connect the Palaces and other very important subscribers. The progress has been maintained during these 10 years and several extensions had to be made to cope up with the increase of subscribers. At present this exchange serves 313 subscribers with 157 extension phones.

Government have in the meantime been considering a scheme for an All Travancore Trunk Telephone system ultimately to be linked up with the Government of India Trunk and in 1936 proposals for this took a definite shape. In 1937 the Telephone branch of the department was organised as a separate division, but under the control of the Electrical Engineer. The services of an experienced Engineer from the Government of Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, Mr. J. C. Parthew, were obtained and this officer was placed in direct charge of the division. Estimates were soon after prepared for the All Travancore Scheme and submitted to Government. Government sanctioned this scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. The construction work was commenced soon after and the major portion of it was completed and the local trunk system linked up with all the important places of the State by the end of 1939. One special feature of the construction of the O. H. lines as different from those of the Government of India was that teak wood cross arms and wooden poles obtained from the Forest Department were used. The speech and other tests on the lines, however,

showed that the standard of construction has been kept very high. The linking up of the Travancore Telephone system with the Government of Indian Trunk was inaugurated by His Highness the Maharaja at 10-30 A. M. on the 22nd April, 1940 when His Highness spoke from the Kaudiyar Palace to Sir G. V. Bewoor C. I. E., the Director-General of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department who was at that time at Peshawar. The Trunk scheme as completed up to the end of 1115 has about 507 miles of Trunk circuits, 24 public call offices, 4 main and 6 sub-exchanges besides the Telephone system for the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric operation purposes, linking up the various sub-stations and generating station. A total number of 601 Telephone connections including extensions is now being maintained. The capital expenditure on Telephone till the end of the last financial year was Rs. 8·7 Lakhs.

Radio Broadcasting

In sanctioning the Radio Broadcasting scheme which is to be shortly brought into operation, Government took one further step in their forward policy of the educational advancement of the State. Soon after the same was sanctioned by Government an Assistant Engineer from the Electricity Department was deputed to Delhi for training in installation work with the All India Radio for a year. Four junior engineers were also deputed for training subsequently. It was decided to construct a 5 K. W. Medium Wave stations near Trivandrum. The Chief Engineer of the All India Radio visited Travancore in January 1939 and selected a suitable site for the Transmitter Station at Pangappara about 7 miles to the north of Trivandrum. All the estimates required in connection with the scheme were prepared and the construction of the Transmitter building and associated buildings was taken up last year and most of the work has since been completed. The contract for the supply and erection of the equipments were placed with Messrs. Standard

Telephone Company. These are now understood to be ready for shipment and are expected to arrive at site early in 1941. The materials for mast and earth system have been received and these have now been erected at site. The preliminary survey in connection with the extension of a 3·3 K. V. Power line from the Trivandrum Power House to the Transmitter station has also been completed and the construction work is being commenced. It is now expected that the station will be ready for operation by the middle of 1941.

A wave length of 455·926 metres has been allotted to the stations by the Government of India.

Stores Purchase Reform

Almost within a few days of assuming charge as Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar discovered the leakage of Government money in the matter of the purchase of stores of various kinds for the various Departments which has been going on under a system instituted years ago. Under this system the purchase of articles required by the various Departments of Public Service in the State was regulated by a set of Store Rules given as an Appendix to the Account Code. Under these rules, the Departmental Heads made the purchases either by auction in the case of articles which it would be cheaper and more convenient to get from local market, or by calling for tenders, if the supply could not be arranged under the auction system. The Departmental Heads were authorised to make direct purchases from recognised firms when the articles were urgently required and also from particular firms in cases where the articles were manufactured only by those firms.

Experience showed that the arrangements described above were not satisfactory in working. In the first place, each Department placed its orders for the same class of goods separately, and even in the same Department the whole of the annual requirements was not estimated in advance and consolidated orders were not placed, with the result that the advantages of wholesale purchase on a large

scale could not be secured. Secondly, the purchasing officers had no means of obtaining accurate and up-to-date information regarding the firms dealing in the goods, required by them; nor were they aware of the best available manufactures or designs suited to their requirements, nor generally about the fluctuations in the market conditions. Thirdly, there were Standing Orders requiring that the widest publicity should be given to notices calling for tenders. But in practice sufficient publicity is not given as regards the requirements of the several Departments. In the case of certain Departments, there has been no adequate response to tender notices with the result that a few firms got the monopoly of supply for a number of years. Fourthly, the tender notices themselves were not often sufficiently comprehensive and definite as regards the specifications, the time and conditions of delivery, arrangements for testing and penalty for breach of conditions, etc. When large orders were placed, the terms agreed to were frequently stated in ordinary official communications and not in formal contracts, or agreements, in suitable language so that in case of violation of terms, Government were powerless to take effective action. Lastly, when deliveries were actually made, they were in most cases not carefully examined and tested, nor were steps taken to verify that the terms and conditions have been adhered to; in cases of failure nothing could be done to enforce the penalties, because penal clauses were themselves in many cases vague and indefinite. Another serious defect was that inspection of the goods supplied was not insisted upon and was regarded as a mere matter of formality, which resulted in indifferent compliances with the orders by the supplying firms. Apart from these defects there was the fact that the functions and activities of Government have expanded in every direction in recent years, and consequently expenditure on the purchase of articles for the public service, especially in connection with capital major works, has become very considerable, running into several lakhs of rupees.

Government, therefore, rightly decided that the time had come to change the system and make such adequate arrangements as would enable the best value being realised for the large expenditure incurred. It was also felt that purchases should be done on as economical a basis as possible.

In the circumstances explained above, Government considered that the object in view could be achieved by fixing the responsibility in respect of all large purchases required for all the Departments on one centralised organisation which will be in close touch with the Departmental requirements and with the producers and manufacturers. A central organisation of this kind will also be useful in regard to foreign purchases by consolidating the requirements of all the Departments in respect of foreign goods of the same description and quality, comparing prices in India with those in foreign countries, calling for simultaneous tenders in India and in England when considered necessary. It was also thought desirable that centralised purchasing would facilitate standardisation and reduction in the variety of commodities used by the Government and would result in better and more effective control being exercised over deliveries and stocks on hand and also over the account of expenditure. In short, the view of Government was that the new system was likely to conduce to greater efficiency and economy on the whole.

Government, accordingly, sanctioned for the purpose the creation of a Stores Purchase Committee for the whole State, consisting of the Chief Secretary to Government, the Financial Secretary to Government and the Director of Industries, with the Chief Secretary as the President. The functions of this Committee were :—

(i) Consolidation and classification of indents for the purchase of Stores, during every year, of all departments of the State;

(ii) Publication of information in as wide and effective a manner as possible, as regards large purchases likely to be made on behalf of Government so as to elicit the most favourable terms as regards price, quality, delivery, etc;

(iii) Continuing in close touch with the market conditions and with the wholesale manufacturers and dealers and supplying correct information to the various purchasing Departments from time to time;

(iv) Obtaining and comparing the quotation, whenever necessary, with the purchasing agents in foreign countries;

(v) Collection of correct and up-to-date information regarding Indian firms in general and Travancore firms in particular, who are able to satisfy any of the requirements of the Purchasing departments of the State;

(vi) Supervision and check in respect of contracts and agreements and enforcements of the terms of the contract as regards delivery prices;

(vii) Arranging for inspection by experts in the course of manufacture of the goods ordered, to the extent necessary;

(viii) Arranging for the prompt clearance at ports of goods ordered from foreign countries and instituting claims for losses in transit, etc;

(ix) Making arrangements for carrying out tests of goods on delivery;

(x) Generally, serving as a co-ordinating agency for all purchasing departments as well as for inter-departmental purchases.

With a view to see that the best results were obtained, it was also stated in the Government order that in addition to the three members mentioned above, the Head of each Department concerned should also be co-opted as a member of the Committee whenever questions relating to purchases of such departments are considered. In regard to a ministerial officer to carry out the work of the Committee it was thought that no separate Secretary to the Committee was necessary and that the Assistant Secretary to Government, P.W. Section, Secretariat, could act as Secretary to the Committee also in addition to his own duties and that he should work in that capacity directly under the Chief Secretary.

The Committee was invested with jurisdiction over the purchase of such kinds of stores to be procured in India or

abroad as were likely to be required by more than one department in common and in fairly large quantities as also with the case of individual items of stores exceeding Rs. 1000. It was distinctly laid down that indents for such stores should be sent to, and purchases effected only through, the Committee. For this purpose, it was necessary to compile a classified list of stores which were in common requisition by more than one Department and which, taken in the aggregate in the State as a whole, were likely to exceed Rs. 1,000 in value in a year in respect of any one commodity. All Heads of Departments were, therefore, requested to forward to the Secretary to the Committee classified lists of all goods usually required by them together with the estimated value of such purchases for each article in an year, and also their proposals as to limits of values within which they might make purchases without reference to the Committee. The estimate was to be based on the actual purchases during the previous three or five years.

This Committee created in 1936 has been at work during the past four years during which it consolidated the requirements of various Departments, invited tenders or quotations for their supply, fixed a particular day for their receipt, and opened them in the presence of those who had quoted, provided they were present. The value of the contracts settled during the last three years, those given to local suppliers and manufacturers and those directed to be supplied from various Government Departments are shown below. The total value of contracts settled in 1113 M. E. was Rs. 11,16,000 which rose in 1114 to Rs. 15,06,000. During 1115 the amount was Rs. 25 Lakhs. The value of contracts given to local suppliers and manufacturers in 1113 M. E. was Rs. 1,00,000 which in 1114 and 1115 increased to Rs. 1,12,300 and Rs. 2,09,600 respectively. The value of materials to be manufactured and supplied from Departments was Rs. 53,800 in 1114 and 91,000 in 1115.

Various materials which were being purchased at prohibitive cost from foreign manufacturers were directed to

be made locally either in some Department or by local manufacturers both from point of economy and indigenous enterprise. With a view to give further encouragement to local enterprises long term contracts were also given in some cases. Thus a three year's contract for manufacture and supply of envelopes by opening a local envelope factory and another five year's contract for manufacture and supply of pen-holders, paper weights &c. have been settled.

The Committee is also in touch with many local, Indian and foreign firms. They keep a register of firms and about 500 firms have till now registered their names.

A Repair Section which has been formed and attached to the Committee attends to the repair and reconditioning of costly and delicate instruments such as telescopes, theodolities, &c. The value of the articles repaired during the last one year amounted to more than Rs. 12,000. In addition to repair, this Section also attends to manufacture of lenses, film cassettes, film hangers. It will thus be seen that a good impetus has been given to local enterprise.

Medical Relief

The long established policy of the Travancore Government has been to see that proper medical aid is placed within the reach of all classes. Free medical aid and free supply of medicines have been available to the public for the past 13 decades in all medical institutions maintained by Government. This generosity originated from a gracious woman ruler of the State, Her Highness Rani Gouri Lakshmi Bayi (1810-1814).

The total number of Government Medical Institutions in the State during 1115 M. E. was 89, 32 Hospitals and 57 Dispensaries. To supplement the activities of the Government agency in this direction a regular system of medical grant-in-aid is also in force under which there are nine Hospitals and 12 Dispensaries. Besides these there are two temporary Government Dispensaries and 10 full-time Malaria Dispensaries.

When compared with other Provinces and States it is seen that in the Madras Presidency there was on an average one Medical Institution for every 126 square miles, in Bombay, one for every 180 square miles, in Bengal one for every 540 square miles, in the United Provinces one for every 178 square miles, in Mysore one for every 94 square miles and in Travancore one Allopathic Institution serves 27 square miles and one Ayurvedic or Allopathic Institution serves 20 square miles. To describe the position in terms of population, there is one Institution for every 41,217 people in the Madras Presidency, one for every 41,940 in Bombay, one for every 34,585 in Bengal, one for every 81,087 in the United Provinces and one for every 20,653 in Mysore. In Travancore one Allopathic Institution covers the need of 21,818 people and one Allopathic or Ayurvedic Institution serves for every 15,748 people. The number of beds available for in-patients in Mysore was 3,210 and that in Travancore 3,849. The number of Midwives in Mysore was 339 and that in Travancore was 103. The expenditure on Medical Department in Mysore was Rs. 19,82,217 of which the contributions from local bodies amounted to Rs. 3,40,000 and receipts from Hospital fees were Rs 1,17,213. In Travancore the expenditure of nearly Rs. 10 lakhs comes entirely from the State. Mysore spent 4 As.–6 Ps. per-capita as against 2 As. 7 Ps. in Madras, 4 As. 9 Ps. in Bombay, 2 As. 1 P. in Bengal and 1 A. 6 Ps. in the United Provinces and 1 A. 3 Ps. in Bihar, while the expenditure per head in Travancore was 5 annas.

The question of private benefaction in Travancore was practically non-existent until recently when for the first time Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan, made a donation from his private purse to the Women and Children's Hospital, which was afterwards followed by several people. During the year 1115 the benefaction of the people came to about one lakh of Rupees. In Mysore during the last one year the philanthropic aid of the people was to the tune of Rs. 1,49,000. The Kottayam District Hospital had the largest

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share of private philanthropy. In about a dozen places in the mofussil, wards or buildings were constructed to commemorate the Shashtiabdapurthi of the Dewan, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and attached to local medical institutions.

Travancore is fortunate in the large number of surplus qualified hands. The services of these persons both men and women are being utilised by several Government Institutions under the system of unpaid volunteers of whom a definite number is attached to each Institution. Another advantage this system has is that it will give the volunteers an opportunity to work in the Government Institutions and thus gain practical work which would be of much help to them in private practice on which they will have to enter.

A new feacture of the Travancore Medical Department is that a class for the training of Male Nurses or ward attendants has been started as an experiment with a view to improve the indigenous system of Nursing. The first batch consisted of 18 candidates. One of the most important questions which engage the attention of the Department is Maternity and Child Welfare. Midwives do house-to-house visiting and give advice to pregnant women. They thus get into touch with women at every stage, ante-natal, natal and post-natal and when necessary, render aid themselves.

Systematic treatment of Leprosy made available by recent researches has been adopted with very gratifying results. Steps are taken to class together patients according to stage and progress of the disease which is really the more rational and satisfactory method. The Leper Colony, Noornad, is now not merely an Asylum for Lepers but a Hospital where the patient is treated medically. The Travancore Medical Department has given its full and hearty support and co-operation to Captain J. Dogra M. D., I. M. S. Officer, Medical Research Department under O. R. F. A., King Institute, Guindy, Madras, in connection with the Peptic ulcer enquiry which he is conducting in South India. Government have realised that as in other big towns in India,

Tuberculosis is on the increase. Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow's visit to Travancore in January 1939 was taken advantage of for laying the foundation-stone of a Tuberculosis Hospital in Nagercoil. The building is expected to be completed and ready for use in the course of 1941. At present there is a Tuberculosis Clinic in the General Hospital, Trivandrum, for out-patients and a small ward has been set apart for the treatment of in-patients. After a visit to this ward, I found that it is terribly crowded which only shows the need for a well-equipped Tuberculosis Hospital.

Travancore has for the past 40 years and more been keenly interested in affording free medical aid to women. A new and up-to date building was construtcted in 1916 and placed under a highly qualified (London) Indian Lady whose unselfish and disinterested labours have raised the Institution to a high level of efficiency and professional skill as is testified to by the fact that women patients from the British Districts and from far off Philippine Islands have resorted to this Hospital. It has also attracted Gosha women from Namboodiri and Mohammadan communities. There is also another Hospital at Quilon exclusively for women under highly qualified ladies. Several major Hospitals in the State have qualified women doctors attached to them. Malabar of which Travancore forms the leading part is deservedly called the Land of Women. Travancore has forged ahead by appointing a lady as Head of the Medical Department, Mrs. Poonen Lukose, who has proved herself to be a successful administrative Officer, as she has been in the profession. Travancore is thus the first administration in India, to take this step of appointing a lady as the controlling Head of a Major Department.

The Ayurveda Department

As in the case of Allopathic system of medical relief, so in case of the Ayurvedic or indigenous system, Travancore was the earliest to give State aid. The Ayurvedic system was

first founded in Malabar by Sri Parasurama and it is as old as the country of Kerala which was reclaimed by him from the sea. It is said that, when he founded this system of medical treatment, he initiated the Heads of Eight families into the secrets of Ayurveda and they were called *Ashtavaidyans* or Eight Physicians. Of these eight, three were Nambudiri families from Travancore. The treatment was handed down from father to son and thus it was that this form of Hindu medical relief flourished in Travancore for several decades. The treatment given was also free as its votaries were wealthy Nambudiri Jenmies who had no need to levy any fee. The present Head of one of these three *Ashtavaidyans*, Cheritta Narayana Moos at Kottayam, now presides over the Ayurveda Department as an Honorary Officer at the request of the Travancore Government. He is himself a renowned Ayurveda Doctor who has in him a rich heritage of empirical knowledge and experience of this age-old system.

Though the Ayurvedic system of medical relief was more commonly resorted to than the Allopathic system, the first State recognition from Travancore came only in 1065 (1889) when an Ayurveda *Patasala* (School) was first established and a system of grant-in-aid to qualified Vaidyans was also sanctioned. In 1093 (1917—1918) the present Department of Ayurveda was constituted. The curricula of studies in Ayurveda Schools were revised on a scientific basis to suit modern conditions and requirements and an Ayurveda Hospital with a Dispensary was opened in Trivandrum. The Ayurveda *Patasala* was raised to the status of a College.

With the passing of each year the usefulness of the Department received greater recognition from a larger and wider clientele. The Government Ayurveda Hospital and Dispensary at Trivandrum continued to do good and useful work. For *Panchakarma* forms of treatment, which are a special feature of the Ayurvedic system and are mostly practised only in Kerala, a separate ward was opened in the Hospi-

tal and a specialist appointed as Assistant Vaidyan to be in charge of that ward. Besides this institution, there were three private Ayurveda Hospitals at Nagercoil, Kilimanur and Quilon, receiving a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 each per mensem and all of them continued to work satisfactorily. The number of Vaidyasalas aided by Government rose from 162 in 1114 to 169 in 1115. About a decade ago it was only 125. It is worthy of note that of these 169 institutions 24 were Visha Vaidyasalas, one was for both poison and eye-treatment, 4 for *Marmachikilsa*, 3 for the treatment of women and children and the rest, including 7 Sidha and 2 Unani Vaidyasalas were for the treatment of general diseases. As in 1114 three temporary Vaidyasalas were opened in 1115 in connection with the Makaravilakku festival at Sabarimala and the Ashtami festival at Vaikom. The number of recognised Vaidyasalas increased from 134 in 1114 to 158 in 1115. The number of these institutions in 1106 was 98. In other words, the number of grant-in-aid institutions increased during the past ten years by 44 and that of recognised ones by 60.

The total number of patients treated in all these aided institutions during 1115 (1939—40) was 5,54,693 as against 5,23,291 in 1114. Several complicated and chronic cases such as *Garbhasayachuti*, *Garbhasayarbudam*, which are generally treated only in the Allopathic institutions were treated successfully.

Besides the Government Ayurvedic College there were five private aided Ayurveda High Schools in the State as in 1114. The number of private unaided Ayurvedic High Schools rose from 2 to 4. Permission was granted to conduct two Ayurveda High Schools.

Two Committees were constituted during the year under the Chairmanship of the Honorary Director, one for the preparation of a revised and detailed curriculam for the various Ayurveda Examinations and the other for the preparation of a detailed curriculam that may be useful in a course in *Sidha*

system and for considering the question of giving encouragement to that system of treatment. The strength of the Ayurveda College fell from 183 in 1114 to 155 due to the raising of the standard of admission to the *Prathama* and the *Vishavaidyavisarada* Classes as well as to the opening of more Ayurveda Schools in the mofussil parts during the year.

The Government Ayurveda Pharmacy prepared medicines and supplied the required medicines to the Government institutions. Several new and rare medicines were prepared and sold to the public from the selling Department of the Pharmacy. To develop the selling Department and to afford facilities to outsiders for buying medicines prepared in the Government Pharmacy the V. P. system was introduced.

It is worth mention in this connection that the treatment of Malaria was also taken up by the Ayurveda Department. When this malady was at its height, temporary centres were opened for tackling this disease and relief was given in the case of hundreds of patients. I had occasion to visit these centres where the Ayurveda system was adopted. I was struck with the tidiness of the arrangements. I talked to several patients under treatment who were highly satisfied with the attention given. In view of the measure of success achieved, a temporary Ayurvedic Dispensary for Malaria treatment was opened at Uruttambalam, the centre of the Malaria stricken area and it continues to be popular. The daily average number of patients was 300. Several complicated cases were treated successfully in this Dispensary and the spread of epidemic in this area has been greatly arrested. As a result of the popularity gained by this Dispensary, the same is being continued.

Public Health in Travancore

The solicitude and earnestness evinced by the Rulers of Travancore in the health and welfare of their subjects were amply borne out in a pregnant utterance that emanated from His Highness the late Sri Mulam Tirunal of happy memory

(1885 to 1924). In the course of the reply to the Address presented to His Highness by the people of the State, on the auspicious occasion of His Highness' *Sashtiabdapurthi*, His Highness was graciously pleased to declare with characteristic love, benevolence, and paternal solicitude, these ever-memorable words:—"I LIVE FOR MY PEOPLE." It was this ideal that inspired Her Highness Gouri Lakshmi Bayi to open the first Allopathic Medical Institution in Travancore for free medical aid. It was also the same generous hand that laid the foundations of Preventive Medicine in the State. This was followed by the formation of a Vaccination Department as early as in 1864. By slow and steady steps, the machinery of Public Health was improved. In 1895, the activities were developed on a better footing with the creation of a Sanitary Department under a Sanitary Commissioner. The two main functions allotted to this Department were rural medical aid and rural sanitation, the former by means of a system of travelling dispensaries and the latter through a permanent staff stationed in important rural centres. At that time, the idea of rural medical relief and rural sanitation and hygiene was only in its germinal stage in India and Travancore was almost a pioneer in India to work out the scheme. The ground work having thus been laid, it was followed by a progressive expansion of the Department in gradual stages.

In the year 1928 (1103 M. E.) Government requested the Rockefeller Foundation in America to depute one of their representatives to this State for offering the requisite advice and co-operation in organising a Public Health Department on modern lines. The Foundation very generously acceded to the request and deputed Dr. W. P. Jacocks for re-organising the Public Health Service on up-to-date lines in Travancore. A working programme drawn up by Dr. Jacocks was sanctioned by Government and put into operation in 1930. With a view to co-ordinate all the public health activities of the State on a scientific basis, under a single direction, the then existing Sanitary Department was

amalgamated with the Public Health organisation and a permanent Public Health Department was constituted under the control of a Deputy Director, early in 1109 M. E. (1933). Since then, the work of this unified Department has been making steady progress according to a definite programme of an all-comprehensive nature.

The first and the foremost phase of the work was the launching of a sustained and intensive campaign against various epidemic and endemic diseases such as smallpox, cholera, plague and typhoid. A yaws treatment campaign has also been in operation in various parts of the State.

The fell disease of Malaria which became prevalent as an epidemic in 1935 was very vigorously tackled. A State-wide Malaria and Filariasis Survey was undertaken with the result that much valuable data of a scientific nature were collected. Intensive studies were made at certain Field Research Stations regarding the epidemiological factors of Malaria and filariasis. A comprehensive scheme for controlling rural Malaria in some of the heavily affected areas in South Travancore was put into operation. A net-work of Hospitals and Dispensaries exist today in the malaria-stricken regions for affording adequate medical relief to the sufferers. During periods when the prevalence of Malaria caused much economic distress to the people in the stricken areas, emergency relief measures such as distribution of rice-doles, noon-feeding of school children and starting of relief works, were undertaken by Government, supplemented by public charity. When I visited these areas I found the Malaria patients carefully looked after both in the Allopathic and Ayurvedic Medical Institutions started specially to afford treatment and relief. His Highness the Maharaja accompanied by Her Highness the Maharani paid a visit to some of these centres. It is noteworthy that the studies made in the Sherthalai Taluk—the home of the 'Elephant' leg disease—on "Filaria Malayi" and its transmission by "Mansonioides" mosquitoes

and the unique method of Filariasis control employed in this area, have attracted the attention of Filariasis workers all over the world and form a valuable contribution to the present knowledge on the subject. A well-equipped Public Health Laboratory which formed a part of the Public Health Department and which was lately transferred to the Research Department of the Travancore University, is rendering a variety of valuable services such as conducting cultural and bacteriological examinations and diagnostic tests, production of vaccines, giving anti-rabic treatment, &c.

A unique feature of the Department is the formation at Neyyattinkara of a Health Unit, the first of its kind in India. The work carried out here has become so popular that there are demands from people in other places for the establishment of similar Units. The principal activities carried on in the Neyyattinkara Health Unit are correct registration of vital statistics, control of communicable diseases, school medical inspection, maternity and child welfare work, rural sanitation and health education. The Unit is functioning very well as a Training Centre for Public Health workers. It is growing more and more in popularity as a resort for Rural Welfare workers. The Unit had the privilege of a visit from Her Highness the Maharani who was pleased to offer the following inspiring message for the success of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service carried on by this Department :—

> "It has given me great pleasure to learn that the Public Health Department has conceived the happy thought of popularising sound ideas regarding the fundamental problems of Maternity and Child Welfare. On the spread of knowledge relating to them depends the health and happiness of the future generation and there is no more instructive method to secure the end in view nor one with a more immediate appeal to all classes. I wish the experiment all success."

Maternity and Child Welfare work more or less on lines identical with those followed in the Neyyattinkara Health

Unit is being carried on at ten select Rural Centres situated away from Hospitals and Dispensaries. Similar work is in progress in some of the Municipalities also. Certain voluntary agencies too have organised maternity and child welfare work in their respective areas of operations.

Another useful activity taken up by the Department in recent years is School Medical Inspection work. This valuable service is rendered in the Primary Schools located in 8 select Taluks. A thorough medical inspection of all the school children in the schools is brought under the scheme, correction of the defects noted in the nearest Hospitals or Dispensaries by the School Medical Officers concerned. Inspection of the sanitary conditions of the schools and Health Education are the important phases of School Medical work.

Rural Sanitation is an essential activity carried out by the Department. According to a well-planned scheme, a good number of wells are newly provided from year to year, for the supply of good drinking water in places that are hit hard by water scarcity. The completion of the water-supply schemes for Shencottah, Nagercoil, etc., which are under construction will mark a great advance towards the provision of better amenities for some of the mofussil areas. A vigorous drive for the installation of sanitary types of latrines, such as Bored-hole latrines, is also in progress in different parts of the State. A ceaseless campaign of Health Education is being carried on by means of lectures (with the aid of the latest means for propaganda such as the movie and the loud-speaker), pamphlets, bulletins, exhibitions, etc. The Health Educational activities strive for creating a public health conscience among the people, for disseminating sound ideas on Health and Hygiene, and for enlisting the co-operation of the public towards the successful conduct of all the diverse public health activities in the State.

March of Education

The Travancore University

In Chapter VI, an account of the circumstances under which the Travancore University was brought into existence and also its scope and aim is given. The following is a summary of the work done by the University during 1115 (1939—40.)

Under Section 17 of the University Act the Syndicate was re-constituted during the year. The strength of the Senate was 73 at the end of the year. The Senate held two ordinary meetings during the year. A special meeting of the Senate was also held on 23rd October, 1939 to consider the recommendation of the Syndicate that the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws be conferred on Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. I. E. LL. D., the Vice-Chancellor. Under Section 4, Chapter VII of the Statutes, a Board of Finance and Accounts was reconstituted during the year. The Board held two meetings—one to consider the Budget Estimates for 1116 and the other to deal with the applications from Private Colleges and for Hostels for maintenance grants. Other matters were transacted by proceedings. Each of the Faculties except the Faculty of Law met once during the year. The Board of Studies in the various subjects met once during the year. A Board of Studies in European languages was constituted.

To determine the general policy of the Department of physical Education and guide and control the physical education activities of the various institutions under the control of the University, a Board of University Education was constituted early in the year. The needful changes were introduced in the statutes.

The College of Arts and the College of Science which had continued to be affiliated with the Madras University for the Honours and Post-graduate courses severed their connection with that University in March 1940 when the last batch

of candidates appeared for the B. A. (Hons.), B. Sc. (Hons.), M. A., and M. Sc. Degree Examinations.

A Diploma course in Forestry was started in July 1940. The course extends over a period of 2½ years, of which six months will be devoted to practical training in the forests of the State. The course is more or less of the standard of the Ranger's course at the Madras Forest College, Coimbatore, (now abolished) and the Indian Forest Ranger's College, Dehra Dun. The minimum qualification for admission to the course is a pass in the Intermediate Examination with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as optionals. The tution fee for the course has been fixed at Rs. 400 on Travancoreans and Rs. 1,000 for non-Travancoreans. The course now in progress is meant only as an experimental measure, the question of making a regular Department of studies being determined by the response forthcoming from other Indian States and Provinces.

The Principal, Union Christian College, Alwaye, applied for permission to abolish group (ii) (Mathematics main and Physics subsidiary) of the B. Sc. course and to open courses in group (i) (Physics main and Mathematics subsidiary). On the management agreeing to satisfy the conditions laid down in the report submitted by the Commissioner who inspected the College, the affiliation applied for was granted in July 1940. The strength of the various Colleges at the end of the year was as follows :—

1.	College of Science	786 (76)
2.	College of Arts	431 (51)
3.	College for Women	233
4.	Sanskrit College	90 (3)
5.	Law College	156 (3)
6.	Training College	81 (14)
7.	College of Engineering	162
8.	Institute of Textile Technology	69 (6)
9.	Diploma Courses in Forestry	20

[Figures in brackets indicate the number of Women Students].

High standards were generally enforced in the matter of admission of students. In the Engineering College the selection was made on the results of a special written examination and *viva voce*.

All the Associations attached to the various Colleges did very good work. The Sanskrit College started a magazine named "Sri Chitra."

The Travancore Union was set on its legs and details are given in Chapter VI.

The College of Science, College of Arts, the Engineering College and the Institute of Textile Technology undertook to send batches of students for excursions in which the students were found to evince great interest.

There were Libraries attached to the various Colleges and the Education Bureau and Institute of Textile Technology. The Arts College had 28,563 volumes, Science College 15,568, College for Women 12,181, Training College 11,482, Education Bureau 3,566 and the Institute of Textile Technology 61.

There were 16 papers and books published by the members of the staff. The subjects dealt with included English literature, Sanskrit literature, Malayalam literature, History, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Radio and Zoology.

The following is a statement of expenditure on Government Scholarships and fee concessions :—

	Br. Rs.	Chs.	C.
College of Science	4,915	17	5
" of Arts	1,510	12	14
" for Women	810	"	"
Sanskrit College	112	14	"

There were 15 endowed Scholarships distributed thus :—

College of Science 7, College of Science for Women 1, College of Arts 1, College for Women 2, Science College and that for Women 1, Arts College and that for Women 1, College of Science and Arts 2, the total amount available for these 15 Scholarships being Rs. 4,586—3—0.

The total sum of money spent in the shape of fee concessions alone in the various Colleges 1115 M. E. was Rs. 4,965.

The total number of students examined by Medical Officers was 1,435 (including 143 women students). Out of this 585 students were found to suffer from some defects or other; among these 480 were referred for treatment. Six students, found suffering from contagious or infectious diseases, were excluded from the Colleges.

The average age of the men students in the different institutions ranged from 16·6 to 23·8 ; the average height from 4′ 10″ to 5′5″ and the average weight from 97·8 to 120·4 lbs. The total number of defects noted was 796 the average number of defects per student being ·55. The commonest defects observed were Tonsillitis and adenoids, which accounted for 25·3 percent of the total defects. The next in the order of frequency was malnutrition, which was responsible for 19·7 percentage of the total defects. The next commonest defects were dentable troubles and defective vision, which constituted 17·3 and 16·9 percent respectively of the total defects.

At the request of the Board of Physical Education, Dr. U. Sivaraman Nair of the Science College took up the Statistical Analysis of the Medical Inspection Records of the College students in Trivandrum. The records for the past 15 years available in the College of Science, Arts, and for women (numbering about 5,500) were obtained and sorted into different age groups. The analysis throws considerable light on the variation of the incidence of the several defects in each group. Dr. Sivaraman Nair has also prepared standard height-weight tables for College students.

The scheme of compulsory physical training for the students of the Intermediate classes continued to work satisfactorily. Among the Game Clubs was the Indigenous Exercises Club which is very popular. A qualified and full-time

Instructor was appointed towards the close of the year. Instruction is given in wrestling, club swinging, Yogic practices (*Asanas*, *Suryanamaskara*, Dhunds and Bhaskies and free hand exercises). The Rowing Club also was popular.

The Travancore University Labour Corps organised in 1939 did very good work and won appreciation from the various Vice-Chancellors who attended the meeting of the Inter-University Board. More particulars are given in Chapter VI.

The health of the students in the hostels was carefully looked after. There were 139 boarders in the three University Hostels. The working of the private Colleges was satisfactory. In the four private Colleges, *viz.* St. Berchman's College, Changanacherry, Union Christian College, Alwaye, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil and the C. M. S. College, Kottayam, there were 1,493 students of whom 120 were women. Of these 1,493 students 615 lived in hostels attached to these private Colleges. These Colleges paid proper attention to Physical Education and also to social life among students.

The amount of money paid as equipment, building and other grants to the private Colleges during 1115 was Rs. 18,290.

The building grant to the St. Berchman's College alone for extensions was Rs. 85,958 in various instalments.

In regard to the work of the Travancore Central Research Institute, full information is given in Chapter VI.

The Trivandrum Public Library the management of which remained in the hands of the University had 187 members and 238 subscribers. There were 8 mofussil Libraries affiliated to it. The number of volumes at present is 34,017.

The Oriental Manuscript Library continued to make good progress. The number of codices in the Library at the end of 1115 was 10,595. As many as 18 Sanskrit works passed

through the Press. Under the auspices of the University, a new series was inaugurated last year and "Pasupata Sutras" was published as the first Number of the "Travancore University Sanskrit Series." Besides, the second editions of *Kalyanasaugandhikam*, *Keralacaritam* and *Yogamrtam* were published. The publication of Vols. 5 to 7 of the Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts of the old Curator's Office and Vol. I of the Malayalam Manuscripts was also completed. In the Department of Publications the work of preparing Malayalam equivalents for English terms in Biology, Physics and Chemistry was taken up. About 1,000 English terms in Sociology, 1,800 in Physics and 1,500 in Chemistry were collected from English text-books, and their Malayalam or Sanskrit equivalents were prepared. The preparation of popular Malayalam books on scientific subjects was also attended to. A book in Electricity was prepared. Books on Sociology, Astronomy, Anthropology, Politics, Health and Travel were under preparation.

The School of Arts continued to do very useful work.

In the Faculty of Science there were nine Research Students and in the Faculty of Oriental Studies and Fine Arts there were five Research Students.

Under the auspices of the University, public lectures were delivered on popular subjects of interest. 13 members of the staff were deputed to attend the various Congresses and Conferences held outside the State.

During the year, a sum of Rs. 5,500 was received as Endowments.

A Register of graduates was opened during the year and 206 persons enrolled.

The Government grant for the year including a sum of Rs. 2,30,000 under Capital expenditure amounted to Rs. 8,40,000. Other receipts amounted to Rs. 2,87,463.

The following is the statement of the results in the various examinations of March—April, 1940.

Examination	No. Examined	No. passed I class	II class	III class	Percentage
Intermediate	684	76	240	,,	45·6
B. A. Degree					
Part I	128	,,	2	77	61·7
Part II	116	1	6	74	69·8
Part III	117	,,	15	76	77·7
B. Sc. Degree					
Part I	177	,,	4	118	68·9
Part II	171	4	9	118	76·6
Part III	170	22	51	69	79·3
B. A. (Hons) Preliminary	22			20*	90·9
B. Sc. (Hons) Do.	4			3*	75·0
First Examination in Law	94	2	7	34	45·7
B. L. Degree	68	,,	1	33	50·0
L. T. Degree					
New Scheme	78	,,	9	58	85·9
Old Scheme	19	,,	,,	12	63·2
First Examination in Engineering	21	1	6	13	95·2
Mahopadhyaya Preliminary	23			15*	65·2
Sanskrit Entrance	42			27*	64·3

Progress of Secondary Education in Travancore.

All education in Travancore before the famous Rescript of Her Highness Rani Gouri Parvati Bhai in June 1817 was organised on a voluntary basis and was confined generally to reading and writing in the mother tongue, in Arithmetic and the elements of Astronomy, necessary for simple calculations required for domestic ritual and agricultural operations. The voluntary system had broken down during the wars of the 18th Century and the Rescript of 1817 was a timely step. In the words of the Proclamation the State thereby undertook to defray the entire cost of education of the people " in order that there might be no backwardness in the spread of enlightenment among them."

* No Class.

A Director of Public Instruction was appointed to control the work of the Department in 1909. At that time the total number of schools was 3,327 of which 493 were Departmental schools and 2,834 were schools managed by private individuals or corporations. Today the total number of schools is 3,724 of which 1,043 are Departmental institutions and 2,681 are under private management. The story of the progress made during these years must, therefore, be read in the growth of institutions of higher grades in the different aspects of educational work under departmental and private management.

There are three grades of schools recognised by the Department—the Primary, the Middle and the High. Education at the primary stage is entirely in the mother tongue. The primary schools in 1909 numbered 3,193. Today their number is 2,833. Since 1909 many primary schools have been raised to the Middle or the High school standard and the length of the course of instruction has also been increased in all. Today only such schools as have the first four classes or less are grouped under the primary schools. After the fourth class there is a bifurcation into English Schools and schools in the mother tongue (Malayalam or Tamil). The former may be of the Middle School Grade which includes a four years' course from the Preparatory Class to Form III, or the High School Grade which has three more classes leading to the E. S. L. C. Examination. In these schools the principal language is English. Those Middle Schools that teach Tamil or Malayalam as the main language contain three more classes after the fourth and with two further classes (Classes VIII and IX) they assume a higher status and are termed Malayalam or Tamil High Schools. English Middle Schools numbered 63 and Malayalam and Tamil Middle Schools 115 in 1909. Their number has now increased to 187 and 450 respectively. English High Schools numbered 28 in 1909 while today their number is 117. Malayalam and Tamil High Schools numbered only four in 1909;

their number has now increased to 40. The total number of pupils under instruction in the primary classes alone has risen from 1,58,306 to 5,01,675 in 1940. The number of pupils in the Malayalam and Tamil Middle and High Schools was 28,217 in 1909 which now stands at 1,82,637. In the English Schools, the number of pupils rose from 17,864 to 66,805 during the same period.

English is taught as a second language in most of the Malayalam and Tamil Middle and High schools while Malayalam or Tamil is taught as a second language in the corresponding English sections. All the subjects of instruction in the English Middle School classes are also taught in the mother tongue. This change has been worked out completely in the course of the last two years by the introduction of proper text books in all subjects for these classes published under the authority of Government. By this measure a parallelism has also been introduced between the three years' course following Class IV of the primary school both in the English and in the Malayalam and Tamil Middle Schools. The subjects of instruction in the Malayalam and Tamil High Schools are of the same standard as those of the English High School course, except that there is no advanced courses provided in Geography, Algebra and Geometry. The standard in English in Class IX is recognised to be equal to that of Form III so that pupils who complete the High School course in the mother tongue are declared to be eligible for admission to Form IV of an English High School. Another kind of instruction which has become popular in recent years is the study of Sanskrit. There are 34 recognised Sanskrit Schools under the control of the Department with a strength of over 5,200, in which Sanskrit is the main language and Malayalam the second language and instruction up to the Middle school standard is provided in general subjects. In 1909 there was only one institution of the kind with 193 pupils.

Separate institutions for the teaching of girls are maintained in the two higher grades, but during recent years, the demand for such separation has slackened. The first step towards the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' schools was taken on the report of the Education Reforms Committee appointed soon after the Installation of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal Maharaja. By this measure all primary schools were permitted to admit girls and boys alike and the appointment of women teachers for the teaching of children was greatly encouraged. A large number of girls attend boys' schools in the Middle and High school grades also. 11,682 girls were attending English Middle and High Schools for Boys out of a total of 21,166 and out of 27,441 girl pupils in Malayalam and Tamil Middle and High Schools 14,842 were attending schools for boys. In both instances, the number increased appreciably during this year. At present there are, however, 106 Malayalam and Tamil High and Middle Schools for Girls and 29 English Middle Schools and 20 English High Schools for girls, in which boys are not generally admitted. The control of Girls' education in the Middle and High school stages is vested in an Inspectress of Girls' Schools while all other grades of schools are placed under four Division Inspectors assisted by 31 Assistant Inspecting Officers, six of whom are women. Muhammadan education is also under a separate officer called the Muhammadan Inspector of Schools, whose function is to inspect the teaching of the Quran and Arabic. Non-departmental institutions are inspected in the same way as departmental institutions, and they are given aid according to the number of classes or excess of expenditure over receipts. No fee is levied in any of the four classes of the primary schools, and provision is made to extend aid to all teachers of non-departmental primary schools. A small fee is levied in the Malayalam and Tamil Middle schools and it has been stated that the comparative cheapness of this grade of education has helped to keep a vast number of pupils at school till the course of instruction for seven years is completed, and to prevent their lapse into illiteracy.

Efficiency of instruction has improved with the introduction of standardised text books for Primary and Middle school classes as well as the insistence on the proper training of teachers. The number of Training schools in 1909 was only 5 and their strength 137. At present there are 48 schools for the training of teachers and the number of teachers who are undergoing training is 1,420. The Chief Inspecting Officers, namely the Division Inspectors and the Inspectress, are now entrusted with the selection of teachers for admission to all Training schools with a view to secure the early training of all the teachers already employed and who have not passed the age of being trained. The number of trained teachers is at present about 11,100, but the percentage of trained teachers which rose considerably during recent years has remained almost at a standstill round about 50 owing to the increase in the number of classes, and the appointment of better qualified untrained teachers in the place of teachers with lower general qualification. The average number of pupils per teacher during 1940 was 35, the total number of pupils under instruction being nearly 7,59,000 of whom 4,41,000 were boys and 3,18,000 were girls. The percentage of the total number under instruction to the total population is 14·9, 17·2 in the case of males and 12·6 in the case of females. The number of pupils who can be taught in each class is limited to 40 and the hours of instruction are also regulated by the Department. Only trained graduates are as a rule allowed to teach High school classes and trained undergraduates in the Middle school classes. Trained teachers possessing general qualifications equal to the 9th standard only are permitted to teach Malayalam and Tamil in Middle schools. These rules apply to departmental and non-departmental schools alike. Conditions of service in departmental schools are governed by the Travancore Service Regulations. No such provision exists in regard to the private institutions, but Government have general powers to regulate them. On the lines laid down by the Education Reforms Committee, various measures were

inaugurated in 1940 with a view to improve the security and tenure, and salaries and emoluments of aided school teachers, as well as the organisation and discipline of the schools under private managements, by introducing the principle of cash security for their necessary financial commitments.

The Education of Backward Communities has received the special consideration of Government. Schools are allowed to spring up for the education of members of Backward Communities in rural areas without much restriction in regard to the building and staff, but receiving a smaller aid by way of grant. On the whole 87 Harijan schools were aided during the year. About a tenth of the pupils under instruction in all other schools also belong to the Backward Communities. The pupils of these communities are given text books free in classes III and IV. There are about 22 communities who enjoy the privilege of full fee concession in all schools and Colleges and almost all communities are given half-fee concession on a communal basis up to ten or fifteen per cent of the number enrolled. The number of Muhammadan pupils—boys and girls—is 42,331 and Muslim Associations are given a bonus to do propaganda work to send more children to schools. There were 284 schools with special provision for teaching Arabic. The grant of fee concessions in non-departmental schools for the benefit of communities ear-marked for such concessions is compensated for by Government by the payment of 60 per cent of the loss incurred. Some of these communities are also exempt from the payment of entrance fees for public examinations.

A definite step was also taken during the last five years towards spread of literacy among those who have had some kind of schooling. Libraries providing a good collection of books, dailies and journals were opened as annex to departmental Primary schools in rural areas. 84 such Rural Libraries have been opened so far, and their location in suitable places which could bring about the largest amount of benefit receives the special attention of the authorities. A sum of about

Rs. 20,000 is spent every year for this purpose, part of which is also spent for the encouragement of private Urban and Rural Libraries. 43 of the latter kind 11 of which were serving urban areas, received aid from the Department in 1940. The books for the departmental Rural Libraries are selected by a small Committee of local members attached to each Library subject to the approval of the Division Inspectors. The membership fee is nominal. The average membership of Rural Libraries of this kind is 42 and the daily attendance 17. The number of books circulated during the year 1940 averaged 890. Night Schools have not been successful, although there are 13 Night Schools which claim 370 adult pupils. Persons of either sex who are above 16 years of age are admitted to the Night Schools and simple lessons in the three R's, stories of historical interest and elementary lessons in Hygiene and First Aid are taught in these institutions. The Libraries and Reading Rooms under private management are also freely open to the public for purposes of consultation and are entirely undenominational.

Another improvement introduced in recent years is the greater attention paid to the health of the children. A School Medical Inspection Service is under operation, which makes a thorough and regular inspection of children in primary schools and arranges for the immediate treatment of such ailments as can be easily attended to. The Southern Districts have already undergone such an inspection and the other taluks are now receiving attention. The encouragement of physical games and sports activities also contributes to the same purpose. The High Schools are encouraged to levy a small games fee from every pupil and to devote the amount for improving sports fields and develop games in the school. They participate in group contests within specified areas for which shields have been instituted and an Annual Sports Meet for all the Districts is held in Trivandrum. The work of co-ordinating these athletic contests is undertaken by the Travancore Athletic Association which receives a grant from

the Department. According to the instructions in force, the ability of the pupil in games and sports would receive equal recognition with ability in general education. An impetus was given to school games by organising Refresher Courses for athletic Superintendents in English High Schools this year under the auspices of the Travancore University. During 1940, in the Sri Mulam Inter-school Sports for Seniors, 39 English Schools took part. 29 schools participated in the Sri Marthanda Varma Inter-school Sports for Juniors. 32 English High Schools competed in the Princess Karthika Tirunal Inter-school Football Tournament. Gymkhanas exist in some parts of the State and one of them at Trivandrum receives aid from the Department. The number of Scouts, Cubs, etc. in schools rose to 3,315 as against 2,541 in the previous year. The number of Girl Guides and Blue Birds in schools was 276. 18 schools had Junior Red Cross groups in them and they were provided with First Aid outfit.

From last year a special officer has been appointed to study the possibility of introducing easy crafts and craft training as well as group games in Primary and Middle schools. Provision is now made for the training of teachers to organise boy leadership and group games in these schools. The work so far done has been very popular and great results are expected out of this development. Industrial training has been confined mostly to Girls' schools, in which Weaving, Embroidery and Lace work are the main subjects taught. There are also four Kindergarten schools in the Girls' branch of the Department. A few boys' schools have a Vocational bias mainly in the direction of Agriculture and Weaving. It is hoped that these will be organised and developed and they would become the basis of an enlarged Vocational training. Government have ordered a definite course of Vocational instruction to be arranged for the benefit of Middle schools. A very significant development inaugurated in recent years is the introduction of training in Music and Dancing. The Sri Chitrodaya Narthakalaya was first started for teaching Dancing and last

year the Sri Swati Tirunal Academy of Music was opened for the proper training of teachers as well as others in Music and the singing of the compositions of Maharaja Sri Swati Tirunal. There are two other Music schools also in the State which receive support from Government. Music is taught in all Girls' schools—Primary and Middle, and in the Departmental English High Schools for girls. Drawing is also a compulsory subject in all schools.

The total expenditure on education in 1909 was only about Rs. 7,55,000, including the expenditure on Collegiate education. At present, the expenditure incurred is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 43 lakhs, the receipts amounting to a little over Rs. 8 lakhs without including Colleges which are now under the control of the University.

The entire expenditure on Education is from State funds. There is no expenditure by local fund of any kind.

The Boy Scout Movement in Travancore

The fact is well-known that the Boy Scout and the Girl Guide Movements in this State have been particulary fortunate in being led by the members of the present Royal House of Travancore who have graciously associated themselves with these Movements and guided their day-to-day progress. Pictures of our present Ruler and those of the Chief Guide and the Chief Cub in Boy Scout and Girl-Guide uniform are universally popular in the State and cherished in almost every household.

The Boy Scout Movement in its Indian form, as led by Dr. Annie Besant previous to its amalgamation with the Baden Powell Association, was prevalent in large numbers in the State in the early days in important places like Nagercoil, Trivandrum and Alleppey and did excellent work. After this Movement was amalgamated with the Baden-Powell Movement in 1921 it was reorganised in Travancore in its present

form in 1924 at a public meeting, with His Highness the Maharaja as Chief Scout.

His Highness has actively led the Boy Scout Movement in the State since his acceptance of office.

The very first step taken for establishing the Movement on a sound basis was the institution of Boy Scout Training in camps held in various centres for Scoutmasters and Cubmasters. The very first training camp in 1926 received a message from His Highness in the following terms :—

> "The holding of the first training camp for Scoutmasters in Travancore, under the auspices of the newly founded Association, will be a notable occasion in the history of the Scout Movement in Travancore. On you, who meet in this first camp greatly depends the success of our attempt to introduce this valuable movement in our State.
>
> I am sorry that I cannot visit you in camp. As this is not possible, I send you my best wishes for a happy and successful time.
>
> If you can learn not only the organisation and methods of Scouting, but something of the true Scout's spirit—brotherliness, self-reliance, courage and honour —and if you will do your best to hand on these gifts of character to the boys whom you hope to train, then this camp will have great results for the youth and the future of Travancore."

His Highness' deep personal interest in the Movement may be understood from His Highness' own words in a reply to an Address of the Boy Scouts in 1930,

> "I, as a Scout myself, am deeply interested in the Movement, and now that my tutor, Captain Harvey, has been appointed State Commissioner, I need hardly tell you that I shall maintain that interest, and do all I can to benefit Scouting!"

That these words found their fulfilment in active guidance of the Movement from year to year through several acts of beneficence and encouragement will be clear to those who would read the annual replies along with the Addresses presented, year after year, at the Annual All-State Rallies held between 1926 and 1939.

His Highness has graciously afforded opportunities for Boy Scouts' service on all momentous occasions at the Palace like His Highness' *Tirumadampu* celebrations, Her Highness the First Princess' *Pallikettu* and His Highness the Elaya Raja's *Tirumadampu* celebrations. At every one of these occasions Boy Scouts were given a good opportunity for proving their usefulness. His Highness has graciously sent on such occasions a message of appreciation by way of encouragement to Boy Scouts for furthering their usefulness. We quote below two such messages.

I

I am glad to acknowledge the services of the Boy Scouts during the seven days of the *Pallikettu*.

Altogether there were 72 Scouts on duty in the pandals and, although they were supposed to do duty in two batches, on most occasions they were all on duty. They were very helpful indeed in directing the guests to their seats and getting their cars. The Police should be very grateful to the Scouts for their help in dealing with the large crowds that assembled. Once again the Scouts have been true to their motto "Be Prepared."

II

I am glad once again to record my appreciation of the services rendered by the Scouts during the five days of the *Tirumadampu*.

The Scouts, working in three batches, were very helpful in regulating large audiences that assembled in the Pandal during the various entertainments.

The Scouts have once again done their "good turn."

His Highness' solicitude for the efficiency of the Movement led him to make a gift of a Boy Scout campsite constructed to suit their needs ideally. Sri Chitra Training and Camping Centre, Oolampara, which is the proud possession of

the Travancore Boy Scout Association is His Highness' personal gift to Boy Scouts to induce camping activity.

* * * * *

That His Highness has not merely been recording his appreciation of achievements but actually been guiding the Movement on definite constructive lines will be clear from one of the several utterances of His Highness during the thirteen years of His Highness' office as Chief Scout. In reply to an Address presented by the Boy Scouts Association in 1931 His Highness said :—

> It is a matter of great rejoicing that Scouting in Travancore has gone on from strength to strength until the total number of members of the organisation is nearly 3,000; but I shall not be content and, I am sure, you will not be content, unless this number is multiplied not only tenfold but a hundredfold and until every eligible young man and young woman is enrolled in the organisation and is filled with its spirit.
>
> As you justly observe, however, the Movement in our State is yet in its infant stage and, for the time being, may require and rightly demand assistance from the State in furtherance of its activities. But I am sure you and the other members of the Scout organisation will be the first to recognise that the Scout Movement is and should be not merely a State-aided enterprise but a genuinely spontaneous, self-supporting and popular movement of which the educational institutions of the land will only be one of the many sources of recruitment. I am looking forward especially to the speedy and healthy growth of a well-organised Rover Movement whose advantages are not easy to over-estimate. From your Address I realise that you are quite alive to these aspects of the matter and are taking steps to popularise the organisation."

His Highness has thus been following the progress of the work of the Boy Scout organisation closely as its Chief Scout and given his lead and personal guidance in its spread and progress in the firm faith of the usefulness and value of the Movement in building good citizenship in the State.

His Highness not only associated himself personally with the Movement but also invested His Highness' brother,

our beloved Elaya Raja as the Chief Cub in the year 1931, which office he graciously filled till 1939, when His Highness appointed H. H. the Elaya Raja as Chief Scout of Travancore. His Highness the Maharaja is the present Patron of the Boy Scouts Association in Travancore and His Highness the Elaya Raja its Chief Scout. At the All-State Rally held in November 1939 to felicitate and acclaim H. H. the Elaya Raja as our Chief Scout His Highness the Maharaja himself was present and, in significance of His Highness' appreciation of the function, the following letter was received from the Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja :

Palace, Trivandrum,
6th December 1939.

My Dear Sir,

His Highness the Maharaja has commanded me to convey to you His Highness' appreciation of the success of the Scout Rally held on that 21st November, 1939, at which His Highness the Elaya Raja was acclaimed as the Chief Scout of Travancore.

I am, My dear Sir,
Yours faithfully
(Sd) N. Krishnamurti.

To,

R. Srinivasan Esq., D. C. C.

That there has been a rapid growth of the Movement during the last fourteen years will be clear from the increase in the number of Scout units from 24 in 1927 to 126 in 1940. These units include Rover Scouts, Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs. The total number of Scouts according to our latest census is 3,707.

May His Highness the Maharajah be the Patron of the Travancore Boy Scouts Association for many many years to come and continue to guide the Movement for the benefit of the youth of Travancore is the fervent prayer of every member of the Boy Scouts Association in Travancore.

Progress in Public Works

Among the measures of progress and development inaugurated in the regime of His Highness the Maharaja during the year 1115 M. E., (1939-40) in the successful prosecution of which the P. W. D. of this State was primarily responsible may be mentioned the following :—

The Alwaye Bridge. The question of opening through communications between Travancore and Cochin was engaging the attention of this Government for a long time and the question of bridging the 2 arms of the Periyar River at Alwaye seemed to be a costly proposition in view of the prohibitive cost of the scheme which was revealed when detailed investigations were made. The Government of India, however, on application by this State, agreed to contribute half the cost of construction of a bridge across the Periyar river at Alwaye from their Reserve in the Central Road Fund. This generous offer was availed of by this State. The work was started in 1937 and completed in 1940. The bridge consists of 3 spans of 143' span each R. C. Bow string girders with a central carriage way and broad side walks the total width between hand rail to hand rail being 34'. This bridge was formally opened for traffic by H. H. the Elaya Raja on 14th June, 1940. The total cost of the bridge is about Rs. 2,34, 000.

The Town Planning Scheme, Trivandrum. A regular programme of special surfacing of the main roads inside the town was completed during the year under the Town Planning Scheme. Government also sanctioned the construction of 5 blocks of buildings on the acquired area near the East Gate of the Museum between the Observatory and the 'Park View' bungalow to accommodate Government offices which are now being held in rented buildings, at an annual rent of about Rs. 33,000. This work was in a state of rapid progress during 1115 M. E. and is nearly complete and will be fit for occupation in a month's time. Government have also recently sanctioned the scheme of converting the Thampanur valley as a high class residential area.

The Longest Concrete Road in India. The Main Southern Road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin is subjected to heavy motor and bullock cart traffic. The successful maintenance of the road with the limited maintenance grant available was a serious problem and, with the inauguration of the State Transport service, it was found that, on account of the unsatisfactory condition of the road, there was considerable loss due to rapid deterioration of the tyres used in Transport vehicles. To compensate the above loss and also to avoid dust nuisance to the travelling public and inhabitants by the side of the road it was decided to provide a cement concrete road from Trivandrum to Tamarakulam 14 feet wide with side berms metalled to available width on either side. The last 7 miles, *viz.*, portion from Tamarakulam to Cape Comorin is to be provided with bituminous surfacing, the traffic in this portion being less intense. This work which was started towards the close of the year 1114 M. E., made rapid progress during 1115 M. E. The scheme has been completed except a short distance of a couple of miles. It is a boon to the travelling public and a source of considerable saving to Government in maintenance costs. The whole distance is 54 miles and is the longest concrete road in India.

Water Supply Schemes in the State. The question of supplying protected water to mofussil towns and areas where scarcity of water was keen was engaging the attention of Government soon after the inauguration of water supply to the town of Trivandrum which proved to be one of uncrowned success. Government, therefore, sanctioned the working of water supply schemes for the 3 towns of Nagercoil, Shencottah and Alleppey. The water supply to the town of Alleppey from deep bore wells was opened by H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi on 21-7-1940. The Shencottah Water Supply Scheme has been completed and awaits formal opening very shortly. The Nagercoil Water Supply Scheme with an earthen dam is in a fair state of progress at present.

Tunnel Works at Varkalai. Through communication by back-water between Trivandrum and Quilon was impossible on account of the high cliff at Varkalai. The Government, therefore, decided to remove this barrier by the construction of two tunnels. The first tunnel 924 feet long was opened for traffic on 15th January, 1877 and the second tunnel 2,364 feet long was opened to traffic in 1880. The two tunnels cost about Rs. 17 lakhs. The big tunnel is being lined with cement concrete year after year as per programme of work approved by Government annually. This re-lining work was started in 1110 M. E., and was being continued year after year according as funds permitted. In the year 1115 M. E. the programme of re-lining work was increased to about 330 Rft. with a view to complete the re-lining work within a period of 5 years beginning from 1115 M. E. The work is being continued in the current year also.

Important Buildings. The construction of permanent buildings to hold the Ceramic factory at Kundara was completed during the year to the satisfaction of the Industries Department. A new approach road to the Ceramic Factory from Kundara Railway Station was also constructed during the year 1115 at an estimated cost of Rs. 21,000. This road has been named as Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar road.

An estimate amounting to Rs. 67,520 was sanctioned for the Tuberculosis Hospital at Nagercoil during the year 1115. The contract for the work was settled immediately and work was commenced towards the close of last year. The work is in a fair state of progress at present and is expected to be opened before end of 1941. This work is partly financed from State Funds and partly from the returnable portion of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee Funds.

One of the existing wards in the General Hospital, Trivandrum, was improved and made fit for commencing Radium Treatment in the above Hospital during 1115 M. E. The construction of a permanent Block has been completed.

The building awaits formal opening. This is also financed from His Majesty's Silver Jubilee Fund.

As the public at large and the members of the Legislature have, for some time past, been evincing considerable interest in the working of the P. W. Department, Government considered it desirable to get the public in close touch with the working of the Department through their representatives in the legislature. With this object in view and in order to advise the Department in the working of Schemes for road and rural development on definite lines consistent with local requirements, Government sanctioned the constitution of a Committee consisting of 9 members, four elected from the Sri Mulam Assembly, two elected from the Sri Chitra State Council and three nominated by Government and with the Chief Engineer as Chairman and the Deputy Chief Engineer as convener. Four meetings of the Committee were held during the year 1115 M. E. With a view to consider the question of preparing a five-year plan for the development of communications, irrigation, etc., a talukwar list of works under the different classifications already advocated by the members of the legislature or by petitioners as well as those suggested by the officers of Government was placed before the Committee. The members of the Committee formed themselves into Sub-Committees, one for each of the territorial P. W. D. Divisions. After touring all over the Divisions to get into touch with the people of the different localities and to get first hand information regarding the needs of the different localities, the Sub-Committees prepared talukwar lists of works that may be taken up for execution in 1116 and these lists were approved by the full Committee. The works provided for in the budget for 1116 are those recommended by the Advisory Committee.

As regards Town roads, an intensive programme of special surfacing, widening, re-grading etc., is in progress partly under the Scheme of Town Planning and partly under the scheme of Special Improvement Works; as water mains,

sewers, electric power and Telephone cables, etc., have to be taken under the surface of the Town Roads, necessitating the opening up of road surfaces, concrete surfacing of the Town roads could not be adopted. The roads are, therefore, provided with bituminous surface mostly with shellcrete, tarcrete and spramax. The total mileage of Town roads already provided with special surfacing is made up of (1) shellcrete, 3½ miles; Tarcrete, 1 mile; other forms of bituminous surface, 9 miles.

The other works which have been taken up and have either been completed or under construction include:—

(1) Shellcreting the road from West Fort to Shungumukham.

(2) Shellcreting the road from the Mosque Junction to Women's College Junction.

(3) Widening and surfacing the road running south of the Science College.

(4) Opening a new road from the Timber Depot, near the Forest Conservator's office, to the Nandavanam hinding the Public Library.

(5) Shellcreting the Railway Station approach road, etc.

Uplift of the Harijans

The elevation of the Harijans in the State began over thirty years ago. The various methods of amelioration were education, grant of waste lands both for house-building and for cultivation, appointment in Government service and representation in the various bodies and institutions such as the Sri Mulam Assembly, the Sri Chitra State Council, Municipal Councils, etc. These concessions were also largely availed of. The number of pupils from these communities in the various educational institutions was on the increase with each year. Those who were benefited by the grant of lands under concession rates seemed to have acquired enough of landed property to justify their demand in the Sri Mulam Popular

Assembly (old); for legislation in respect of partition of property, and the general sense of enlightenment also rose to the point of their making representations on the need for enacting on inheritance, succession and marriage, etc. With the appointment of a Protector of Backward Communities in 1108 (1933) the steps taken were clarified and a definite programme for more effective action pursued. This officer was first engaged in making preliminary enquiries and investigations into the needs and grievances of these classes of people.

In respect of assignment of land on concessional terms, each family is given under these rules 3 acres of land free of *tharavila* or ground value and each Co-operative Society, composed mainly or exclusively of the Backward Communities, can get up to 30 acres under the rules. The term "depressed" classes was altered into "backward" to satisfy the refined sense of the community. In 25 out of 30 Taluks of the State there are lands specially ear-marked for assignment to Backward Communities on concessional terms. The total extent of land thus ear-marked is 15,800 acres. After they were ear-marked, they were inspected conjointly by the Protector of the Backward Communities and the Tahsildars of the Taluks concerned with a view to reject such lands as were found to be unsuitable either for cultivation or house-building. The total area till now assigned is 7,782 acres or about half of the extent of lands ear-marked for them. In such tracts of the country where Government lands are not available, Colonies are established to provide house sites for the landless families of the Backward Communities. There are at present seven Colonies at work. The amenities provided in each of these Colonies includes wells, open spaces for recreation, common buildings for religious purposes, etc. They are given work suitable to them and are thus in a position to make a living. The seven Colonies formed and at work at present contain 110 families spread over about 200 acres. In addition to these Colonies there are five Centres created for intensive ameliorative work in the shape of vegetable gardening, cottage industries such as rattan work, bee-keeping,

poultry, weaving, etc. Arrangements have been made for marketing the products of these industries. One of the duties of the Protector was to try and obtain jobs in Government Service for such of them as are qualified. There are at present about 1,000 members of the Backward Communities employed in the various grades and in the branches of the Public Service, including the Secretariat. The educational facilities granted to the children of these communities include (1) exemption from payment of tution fees in all educational institutions, including Colleges, (2) supply of class text-books in Malayalam and Tamil, (3) lump sum grants for the purchase of books in English Schools, (4) establishment of *free* hostels and (5) monthly stipends for special education. It is worth noting that a graduate of the Parava Community is receiving a special stipend per mensem for special studies in the Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay.

There are also several private institutions conducted on behalf of the Backward Communities which receive liberal grants-in-aid from Government.

"The Epic of Travancore"

What a happy word this and how suggestive to replace the prosaic phraseology of Temple Entry! It connotes, comprises, comprehends and contains ideas, sentiments and aspirations in a manner no other word can express. Who else can suggest this epithet except the Bard of India? Generally, the word "Epic" is used as an adjective and is applied to a poem which recounts a great event in an elevated style. Within this happy word are included the elements of heroism in thought and deed, loftiness in conception, grand in achievement and enduiable in result. It was on account of a combination of these ideas that Mahatma Gandhi said :—

> "I verily believe that, when all else about Travancore is forgotten, this one act of the Maharaja—the Proclamation—will be remembered by future generations with gratitude."

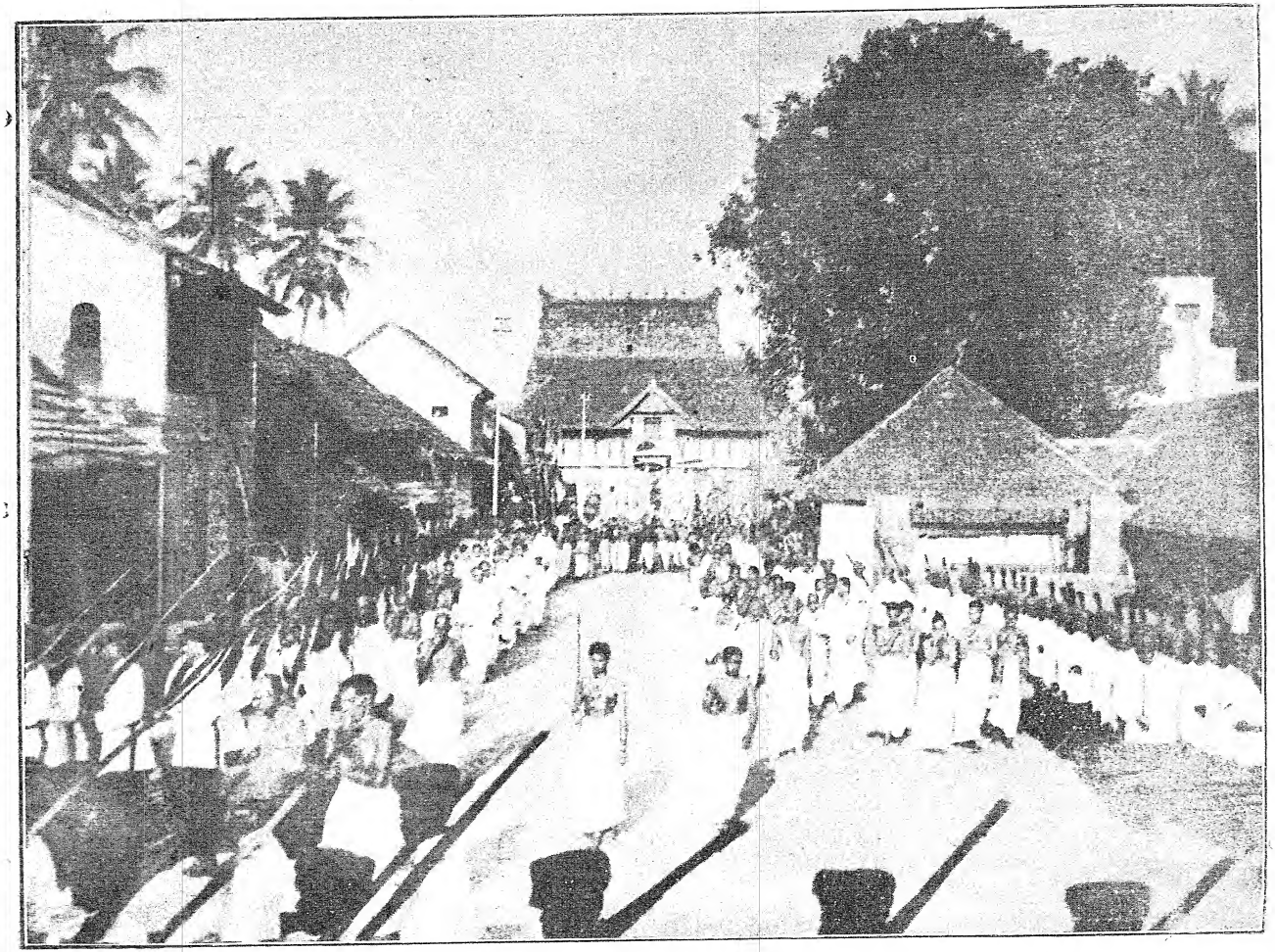
The circumstances which led up to this remarkable event of world-wide importance have, no doubt, been narrated by so many tongues and in diversive ways that there is no need to dilate on them. In the first place, there was the hard background already laid by Government. In reviewing the Temple Entry Committee Report, the Government observed:—

> "Government share the view of the Committee that distance pollution or *theendal* must cease and are of opinion that no general public funds should be spent by Government in the maintenance of public tanks, public wells, *Chatrams*, etc., admission to which is denied to any person by reason of his belonging to *theendal* caste. They have resolved, therefore, that all public roads, public tanks, public wells, *Chatrams*, etc., maintained by them out of their general public funds, shall be thrown open to all classes of people, irrespective of the caste to which they belong. Measures to carry out these objects soon are being considered."

This assurance was followed by action which was taken in May, 1936. The next step was religious or spiritual emancipation in which His Highness the Maharaja felt there was urgent, if not immediate, need. Though His Highness had the valuable and weighty support of his mother in the adoption of further ameliorative measures, the real difficulty was the youth of His Highness who required the help and advice born of experience and practical wisdom, coupled with age. It was about this time that a *Brahmin* of established and world-wide reputation, vast and varied experience, sound and courageous statemanship and liberal and unselfish views became the Head of the Administration. Thus it was that the cause of Temple Entry to Harijans secured a Holy Trinity keenly interested in the eradication of the age-long injustice and grievous wrong. The views of the *Brahmin* Dewan on this great problem had become crystallised long ago and were based on a strong sense of the solidarity of the Hindu faith. When touring in Malabar in 1903, a young man just entering life, he was shocked to find instances of caste cruelty, men of the *theendal* caste being driven away from the King's highways, as if they were dangerous objects to life and existence.



Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple



The Arat Procession

On returning to Madras Mr. (then) C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar explained to his friends what he saw in the shape of social tyranny and took a vow to do his best to remove it. "If ever I get a chance in my life", he said, "I will change the whole aspect of life." This chance did come in Travancore where the Ruler and his progressive mother had agreed to remove this blot. As Sri Mahadev Desai puts it, "but the question of temples in the South, especially in Travancore, was surrounded by more difficulty inasmuch as the temples there are not the simple unimposing affairs that they are in the North. They were consecrated according to Agamas, every part of the temple has its purpose and use, every little detail in the worship is gone through carefully and, rightly or wrongly, any disturbance in the routine is contemplated with a superstitious fear." His Highness the Maharaja felt that his position in this matter was greatly entrenched by the pronounced view of his trusted *Brahmin* Dewan and explained his own views to him. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar thought that his way to carry out the reform was easy enough and began his propaganda work under which he first sounded the orthodox priests in the temple of Sri Padmanabha Swami and other responsible persons whose opinions and views count much. In short, in about three months he ascertained the position by reasoned arguments, interviewed the heads of several Numbudiri families and other high placed quarters and was convinced that the Vembanad lake in Travancore would not be set on fire if active steps were taken in pursuance of the cherished desire of his Royal Master. This great act of the *Brahmin* Dewan in securing the consent of the large and overwhelming section of Savarnas was what Gandhiji called "a mass conversion of the Caste Hindus which no reformer or missionary could have wrought." It is sufficient to add that, under auspices which proved to be surprisingly favourable, His Highness the Maharaja decided to issue the famous Proclamation and thus signalise his Twenty-fifth age and the fifth year of his reign. 34 days after Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar assumed office as

Dewan, the Proclamation which was dated 12th November, 1936, was issued. It was in these terms:—

> **"Profoundly convinced of the truth and validity of our religion, believing that it is based on Divine guidance and on all-comprehending toleration, knowing that in its practice it has throughout the centuries adapted itself to the need of the changing times, solicitous that none of our Hindu subjects should, by reason of birth, caste or community, be denied the consolation and solace of the Hindu Faith, We have decided and hereby declare, ordain and command that, subject to such rules and conditions as may be laid down and imposed by Us for preserving their proper atmosphere and maintaining their rituals and observances, there should henceforth be no restriction placed on any Hindu by birth or religion on entering or worshipping at temples controlled by Us and Our Government."**

This State Document will long endure as the Sun and Moon last and the date, 12th November, 1936, will go down to history as the Day of Liberation not less memorable or important than the day which has marked the abolition of Slavery. The publication of the Proclamation thrilled the whole world—Eastern and Western hemispheres—and elicited praise from the North, East, West and South of this mundane sphere.

I had a very interesting experience about 15 months after this Proclamation was issued. In February, 1939, an American Tourist, Dr. S. Ralph Harlow, the Visiting Professor of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, visited Trivandrum. He was, in addition, a graduate of the Harward and Columbian Universities and was on the Advisory Council of the North American Student Federation and an active worker in the Educational and Religious organisations in America. He was connected with so many Colleges and other educational and social institutions. I had a long interview with him on various topics of general interest. Talking of the Temple Entry Proclamation the Professor told me that the State of Travancore was on the lips of every one in the United States—young or old, man or woman—on account

of the great act of liberation its Ruler had carried out. He went on to describe the great stir the event had created and would, he said, never forget the sensational headlines of praise printed by the leading newspapers in the United States.

The significance and implications of the Proclamation were summarised by its author himself. Presiding at the Temple Entry Day last year, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar said:—

> "In the first place, it may be justly and legitimately viewed as a means by which certain excrescenes that had crept into Hindu Society and Hindu life were swept away. Secondly, it was one of the inevitable steps towards the union of all India, without which union India cannot stand forth as one of the Great Powers of the world, powers not from the point of view of the bomb and the dynamite and the submarine and the aeroplane, but from the spiritual and the intellectual point of view. Thirdly, and above all, this Proclamation is not confined to India alone. It is a Gospel of Equality before the eyes of God, asserted in behalf of humanity, by a great example of human tolerance and human faith, an example which is represented in the life and in the person of H. H. the Maharaja. The Temple Entry Proclamation is to be viewed from several angles not only as a Hindu act, not only as an Indian act, but as an act of the liberation and the sublimation of humanity. So viewed, you will see it in the proper light. So viewing, it is our duty to rejoice and to keep alive the memory of the great event, and the originator of that historic event."

However much Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi may try to conceal the solid identity of her interests in this great act, good acts are found to reveal themselves through the names of those associated with it. The whole world knows the important part she played in this drama of life. Said Gandhiji to an American lady who interviewed him,

> "The modern miracle of Travancore is due to the influence of one woman, Her Highness the Maharani of Travancore. When I was in Travancore some years ago, I met the present Maharani. She was determined to do what was the purest act of justice, and it is she who is at the back of the Maharaja's

decision. It was a most courageous act to issue that Proclamation and still more courageous to carry it out to the letter. The Maharaja could not have done it without the support of his mother. So I see the hand of woman in this modern miracle."

Mr. Desai adds :—

"But the glory of the miracle is shared in no small measure by their able Dewan Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, whom the people are likely to remember with the same feelings of pride and gratitude that they do the great Dewans of old."

The Kerala Hindu Mission

The impression having gained among the Hindu public that Hindu religion has been deteriorating on account of several causes among which aggression on the part of Christianity was one, it was resolved that steps should be taken to defend it against such aggression and domination. An agency under the designation of "The Kerala Hindu Mission" was started in 1933. A Board of Directors was formed for starting work mainly on lines of self-defence. It has been working very efficiently. From the very commencement Dewan Bahadur Rajyasevadhurandhara V. S. Subrahmonia Aiyar, the retired Dewan, has been the President of the Mission. From the annual report of its work, it is seen that the Mission could now claim to have accomplished something in the direction of (1) spreading the Hindu Dharma, (2) organising the Hindu Society, (3) establishing Bhajana Matams, Schools, Colonies, etc., (4) elevating the backward communities, (5) starting cottage industries, (6) establishing maternity and child-welfare institutions, (7) giving medical and educational help and (8) giving facilities to members of other faiths to come into the fold of Hinduism. In this way much work has been done. The Mission avails itself of every opportunity to inculcate the ideals and fundamental principles of Hinduism in the minds of the public by arranging lectures and conferences and by

holding religious classes and Day and Night schools in the Mission centres. An important line of work is the holding of special classes in the important centres to instruct the members of the backward classes in the tenets of Hinduism. It has been the cherished object of the Mission to organise and consolidate all sections of the Hindu community. There are now 230 centres at work besides several others organised but not opened. The European Missionaries began to fear that their work of evangelisation might be obstructed by the methods of work of the Kerala Hindu Mission. In fact their work has been greatly retarded by the tolerance and good spirit of the work of the Mission. It has now been established on unshakably sound lines and is doing considerable work in defence of Hinduism. There is no other agency of this kind organised in defence of Hinduism in any other Indian States. The State Government give a grant to the Mission from the Hindu Religious Japa Dakshina Fund. The total number of Harijan families under the religious supervision of the Mission is about 15,000 comprising about one hundred thousand members. Everything possible is being done by the Mission for the uplift of the Harijans. At all the meetings held at the Bhajana Matams, lessons on Hinduism, hygiene, cleanliness, self-help, thrift, co-operation, temperence, etc., are given. Criminal cases and civil suits among them are settled, as far as possible, by the Mission officers by arbitration. Cottage industries, such as weaving, bee-keeping, poultry farming, basket and mat-making, etc., are being taught so as to make them self-reliant and self-supporting. The beneficent results of these cottage industries having become very popular, steps are being taken to extend the scope of these industries. About 100 persons have been authorised in various parts of the State to perform *suddhi* ceremony according to a prescribed form, for enabling people from other faiths who may like to come into the Hindu fold. The Hindu Mission authorities deserve to be congratulated on the excellent work they are doing.

Freedom of Religious Worship

"*For nearly 1,000 years Travancore has furnished a unique example to the world of religious toleration and hospitality, to all creeds and forms of faith.*"

This was the observation made by Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in reply to the complaint about religious toleration made by a Deputation of the All Travancore Joint Political Congress which waited on the Dewan and which, it may be added, was mostly Christian in composition. The astounding statement was made that the "highly arbitrary procedure cuts at the very root of religious freedom in a manner unheard of in any civilized country and runs counter to all known policy of religious toleration." Though no elaborate examination is necessary to rebut this charge at this stage of Christian prosperity and Christian progress so militantly observable in Travancore, certain broad facts of history will bear any amount of repetition in view of this irresponsible and audacious statement made whose only object is to parade political platitudes at the cost of truth. In the first place, Travancore was the earliest field in South India for the aggressive activities of the Christian Missionary who was helped by the State Government with liberal financial support and plenty of landed property at their two citadels of evangelistic work, namely, the C. M. S. at Kottayam and L. M. S. at Nagercoil. But for the unaccountably liberal aid we would not have had on imperishable record the proud boast of Lord Curzon that Travancore "embraces a larger Christian population than any other Native State" nor the self-satisfying slogan of the European Missionary that Travancore with an area of 7,625 square miles has as much as about one-fourth of the entire Christian population of India. To put it in another way, Travancore which is only two hundred and twenty-fifth part of the Indian Empire in area has a Christian population equal to one-fourth of the total number of Christians in India. Could this amazing growth have been possible but for the

tolerance and even active help of the Travancore Government and the cold neglect of the wardens of Hinduism—both lay and ecclesistical—which must have contributed their share? Again, let us look at this picture from another aspect. During the four years from 1816 to 1820 there were established 301 Churches in the State or 75 churches per year. At the end of 1931 the number was 2,627 or 23 Churches per year during the past 115 years. In 1936 the number of Churches was 2,807, or an increase of 180 Churches during five years or 36 per year. Between 1921 and 1934 i. e. during a period of 13 years 501 were sanctioned or 39 per year, though it must also be added that out of the 501 Churches for the construction of which sanction was accorded only 249 were actually erected. From careful calculations made it has been found that churches have been built in Travancore at the rate of three per month. Another point that cannot escape attention is that the whole of the Madras Presidency under the jurisdiction of a Christian Government has not got as many Churches as in the Hindu State of Travancore which is not larger than an average District of the Madras Presidency. Coming to more recent years, it may be noted that during the Malabar year 1113 (1937–38) permission was granted for opening 26 churches of which one was for the use of new converts to Christianity from backward classes who were not admitted freely to a church that already existed close by. During the years 1114 and 1115 permission was granted for opening 24 and 15 Churches respectively. I may be permitted to add here that, when I was in Baroda, on the personal staff of the Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao C. I. E. an application was made by a European missionary to the State Government for the construction of a church. But sanction was refused. Any comments are superfluous as the figures given above are an abiding and eloquent testimony to the spirit of toleration and freedom enjoyed by the Christian subjects of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.

Relief to the Agriculturist

Lightening the burden of the agriculturist has been one of the aims of His Highness the Maharaja ever since he was invested with Ruling Powers. This was uphill work in view of the prevalence of economic depression during the decade. A review of the revenue from land will explain the position better. Receipts from Land Revenue in 1105 amounted to Rs. 39·69 lakhs—the highest during the decade. In 1106 it declined to Rs. 38·62 lakhs and in the succeeding year 1107 the amount remained almost the same with Rs. 38·47 lakhs. Next year there was a sudden fall to Rs. 33·91 lakhs. Though in 1109 there was a favourable indication to Rs. 37·10 lakhs, it went down to Rs. 30·36 lakhs in 1110—the lowest during the ten years. From 1111 onwards the swinging of the financial pendulum was distinctly favourable. For, the amount in 1111 was Rs. 36·12 lakhs which in 1112 jumped to Rs. 42·77 lakhs which, though it went down to Rs. 38·50 lakhs in 1113, was better than most of the years previous. In 1114 again, the figure was Rs. 34·99 lakhs, which increased to Rs. 36·27 lakhs in 1115. During the six years preceding the decade of depression the land revenue steadily decreased from Rs. 48·61 lakhs in 1100 to Rs. 43·16 lakhs in 1105 (with arrears). It will be thus seen that the ryot was in actual need of relief. The Government have been granting remission every year during this period of agrarian distress. During the decade the total amount of remissions granted under assessment and irrigation aggregated to over Rs. 25 lakhs. It was thought that ways and means should be found to afford relief to the ryot in other directions also as a permanent feature when the agriculturist was in need of help. It may not be out of place to mention here that His Highness, on being appraised of the distress, lent, from his privy purse, a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs to make good the deficit. It was with this object that an Agricultural Debt Relief Bill was introduced. The incubation of this measure took unusually long time due more to the vacillations and changes proposed by the

non-official legislators who could not agree amongst themselves. The differences of opinion on several points became at one time so wide as to threaten an utter impossibility to place it on the statute book of the State. It was at this stage that an eminent, resourceful, experienced and practical lawyer administrator became Dewan-President of the Assembly to bring about, as it were, a reconciliation of the hopeless dissensions and wide divergences. As a result of his ceaseless and patriotic labours and his inexhaustible fund of sympathy and tact the Agricultural Bill was passed by the two Houses and received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on the Sixteenth September, 1940.

That date will mark a new era in the economic and agrarian history of the State. The new Act is wider in scope and application than similar enactments passed elsewhere with a view to afford relief of indebtedness, as it affects not only agricultural debts, but all debts other than a very little group relating to revenue or dues to Government or local bodies, and some other items of a cognate character. Liabilities arising out of any transactions with Government or any local body, liabilities arising out of breach of trust or maintenance decrees, wages due in respect of agricultural or industrial labour, debts incurred after January 1936 are some of the items excluded from the operation of the Act. One noteworthy feature of the Act is that the benefits conferred by it are designedly made applicable to such debtors as are willing to discharge their liabilities by depositing at least a portion of the debt in half-yearly instalments. From the date of the commencement of this Act no future interest exceeding simple interest at 4 per cent per annum in the case of the money debts and 6 per cent in the case of paddy debts could be charged. Special protection has been extended to Banking institutions which have been charging reasonable rates of interest. Among debts excluded from the operation of this Act is any debt due to a woman whose sole property consists of the amount of the debt due to her, provided, however, that such debt does not

exceed Rs. 3,000. This is intended to protect and benefit women who may have to depend for their maintenance or livelihood solely upon the inherited savings invested by them on interest. Government are anxious that legislation concerning transactions with Banks should not prejudicially affect the healthy development of Banking institutions in the State and that every precaution should be taken to avoid the collapse of organised credit in the country. At the same time Government are convinced that too marked a distinction cannot be made between creditors who charge usurious rates of interest and Banks who do likewise. There is, therefore, a provision that all the provisions in the original Act would apply to the transactions with a Bank in respect of which the interest charged exceeds 9 per cent per annum, except to the extent that the benefit in the reduction of the total amount of the debt will not be beyond 20 per cent and that such reduction itself would be available only if the repayment is made within a period of two years in half-yearly instalments.

Forest Development

"The resources of the forests have to be utilised, augmented, improved and this has to be done within a definite time limit. The function of the State is to stimulate the production not only of teak and other marketable products, but of those not marketable also and put them to adequate use."

It was in these words that Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, envisaged, explained, iterated and reiterated the forest policy of the State ever since he assumed the office of Dewan on the 8th October, 1936. To carry out this policy in letter and in spirit, in word and in deed, the Sachivothama wanted the services of an able, experienced and enthusiastic adjutant whose robust optimism and unceasing enthusiasm will be the driving force as well as energising inspiration for the members of the Department. Travancore seems to have secured the services of such an all-round officer in Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Iyer M. A., to control

the destinies of its Forest Department—one who has already made a good name by his work in British India. With his unrivalled knowledge and experience of forests in the Madras Presidency for over two decades, with special reference to Malabar where forest conditions are the same as those in Travancore, he has applied himself to the task of developing the forest resources of the State which possess about 2,400 sq. miles of reserved forests, or about one-third of the total area. In this great task his English training and experience will be of incalculable value.

His first inspection of the forests enabled him to lay his fingers on the drawbacks of the existing system of management. It revealed to him the absence of well-considered schemes covering a Forest Division and also showed that a comprehensive idea of the requirements and possibilities of the forests of a Division was lacking, so that co-ordination between the different parts of the same Division could not be visualised. Existing schemes covered only small local areas. Again, the extraction of timber has been going on on Selection fellings of saleable species above a minimum girth with hardly any provision for replacement of exploited stock by natural or artificial regeneration. Working schemes have been prepared with very little reference to practical needs or scientific development of the area concerned. Coupes intended for exploitation in a single year have been spread over for such exploitation and were being worked for two or three years. Thus, working circles intended to be worked in 10 or 15 years have often taken twice the period. This only reminds one of the leisurely manner in which the Revenue Settlement of the State has been going on against the time fixed in the Royal Proclamation and of the intrepid steps taken to bring the operations to a close. The consummation aimed at could be achieved only when these defects are radically removed and new working plans are prepared for all the reserves based on a more intensive study of the forests, their sylviculture, regeneration and exploitability. For this purpose it

is necessary to prepare a working plan in such a manner as to cover a whole Forest Division which would enable the development of that Forest Division from the standpoint of both sylviculture and finance. A new policy has to be initiated in the case of working plans for the supply of fuel which should follow the simple Coppice system with provision for artificial regeneration. Similarly, the annual area to be planted with teak should be fixed with reference to the availability of suitable forest areas or capacity of Forest Divisions. Under an intelligent system of work it is quite possible to expand the annual planting area to 1,000 acres.

In planning forest development of any kind it is always better to remember the importance of Evergreens and their relation to industrial advancement. The low Evergreens of Travancore form one of the greatest assets to the State and are found along the valleys of the Periyar, the Pamba, Shendurini, Kulathupuzha rivers which are similar to the low level Evergreens of Coorg, Malabar and the Andaman Islands. They contain large quantities of softwood species like Karanjili, Kolavu, Vellapyne, Cheeni, Elavu, Pyne, etc ; not to speak of hardwoods such as Kongu and Nangu. The fact that Travancore is rich in the possession of one lakh of acres of such accessible forests ought to open the eyes of any Forest Officer. Of this large area only about one-third or 30,000 acres have been exploited and that lightly in the past. The State is thus unique in possessing extensive areas of softwood timber for the manufacture of ply wood. Under existing natural conditions of growth the raw materials available are so abundant that they would feed at least two factories in two different centres —one for the Kulathupuzha and Shendurini valleys and the other for the Malayattur Division. Before launching any scheme on its legs it is necessary to study the sylvicultural system of the Evergreen species and evolve suitable methods of regenerating them before extensive areas are exploited. Till then the areas have to be worked on a conservative basis for the supply of softwoods to the factories.

This brings us to the question of softwood plantations which will have to be created if a plywood industry is to be started. There is already a keen demand for white softwoods for the manufacture of packing cases. At present good prices are being realised from Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, Quilon, and from Messrs. Tatas who require large quantities of plywood for a variety of purposes. It may be safely said that no attempts have been made to get a market for the plywood materials in this State which is unrivalled in the possession of this product and more than that the resources too are not approached by any other part of India with excellent facilities of cheap transport.

The industry is so promising that, as announced by the Dewan, he has had applications from outside capitalists who are ready to start a factory for the manufacture of tea chest cases; but his desire is that Travancoreans must themselves take up the work and build such a concern *out of their own money and out of the resources of their own country.* The first precedent condition for the establishment of a factory is the formation of softwood plantations *(Elavu)* to meet the requirements of these factories. Only the proper technique has to be studied. These plantations could be raised in the neighbourhood of navigable rivers to render transport easy and cheap.

Another useful direction in which efforts are to be made is in the formation of junglewood plantation—a direction in which hardly anything has been done. The artificial regeneration of Junglewood species like Anjili, Thembavu, Irul, Vengai and other species to replace the exploitation of junglewood species from the reserves has been proved to be a profitable and utility concern. These have been undertaken in the Madras Presidency under the Tanugya system. That Travancore is not a stranger to this system is seen from the magnificent success that has attended the labours of the Department in the State where the Tanugya system has been at work for the past dozen years or so.

The immediate result of opening Junglewood plantations will be the production of a large quantity of fuel which will solve the problem of fuel supply in urban areas. Fuel reserves like those in Veli and Azhur plantations have proved to be failures and afforestation of these areas has to be resorted to. The growing of cashewnut trees under the Taungya system is a cheap method and may be tried. The formation of casurina plantations on the sea coast as is the case in Madras is yet another direction to meet the growing demand for fuel in urban areas. Perhaps in this matter the Madras example may be followed, namely, of initiating the plantations and after successfully working them they may be handed over to private enterprise.

A well known fact is that the forests contain an enormous quantity of reeds *or eeta* from which pulp can be prepared for the manufacture of paper. The availability of these materials in sufficient quantities has been ascertained in some rough way. It was announced somewhere that the stuff was sent to a well known paper manufacturing firm in North India and that they were able to manufacture good paper to the satisfaction of Government. Here is another field for development. As a practical test the Punalur Mills utilise these reeds and convert them into paper and the present arrangement is that they should buy 2,500 tons for the next two years and 3,500 tons annually thereafter. The Mill authorities have already taken steps to expand their activities and consume eight or even ten thousand tons in the next few years with the new machinery already installed. As the Mills have already come under the working influence of Messrs. Harveys, they are likely to increase the output of paper. It is also on the cards to start another Paper Mill at a site on the side of the Periyar river where about 25,000 tons of reeds are available. The production of newsprint from these materials is a practical proposition. If this project becomes a *fait accumple*, the name of the Sachivothama will go down to posterity and this will be reckoned a more

important step in the economy of every day life than the introduction of paper as a writing material during the Dewanship of Sir A. Seshia Sastri. The most important point is that all facilities such as easy means of communication, marketing of the paper, etc. will have to be given. It is, however, very reassuring that the new Conservator of Forests has taken up these lines of development.

Another matter of industrial expansion that has been taken is the cultivation of beedi plant. In the course of one of his public utterances the Dewan observed thus:—

> "Many poor classes of people indulge in beedi, because they must indulge in something. It is necessary to deal with that want and supply it. We are attempting to do so."

Travancore at present imports beedies to the value of Rs. two lakhs. There are two items in this business. One is the beedi tobacco and the other is the beedi leaf. Though it is considered an unsound proposition to grow the required kind of tobacco which appears to be the monopoly of a particular locality in Hyderabad, there is the other material, namely, beedi leaf, the import of which can be stopped and an annual amount of Rs. 2 lakhs can be saved by the cultivation of beedi plant which grows wild in the Shencottah Division. The wild growth of this plant in some of the forests will be sufficient for our present needs. If the forest authorities would carry out, as it is proposed to be done, a vigorous propaganda of collection of the existing beedi leaf, from the forests, and would supplement the quantity by special cultivation of the plant in areas where it would grow, a new life would be given to a paying concern which may be easily made into a cottage industry. The cultivation of the true cinnamon and Wattle in our forests is another valuable source of income. It is on these lines of development that the new Conservator proposes to work and the Government, it is understood, have sanctioned a five-year programme to be carried out on the lines above sketched. The basis of action is the adoption of a Forest Division as a working unit and the idea is the opening up of that unit as far as possible under every head of develop-

ment. It is earnestly to be hoped that the new Conservator would be able to work out the plan for which he is responsible and thus enhance the industrial and economic prosperity of the State, so dear to His Highness the Maharaja.

The Devaswom Department

"I certainly left Travancore with spiritual treasures that I had newly discovered. For, what I saw there was vastly beyond my expectation and more than delighted my heart. The temples gave me a loftier and nobler idea of temples and temple-worship. I had visited temples before in North India but I had not done so in a devout spirit, and they had failed to stir me. But the majestic Travancore Temples spoke to me. Every carving, every little image, every little oil-lamp had a meaning for me."

Thus wrote Mahatma Gandhi about Travancore temples when he visited the State. The late Dewan Bahadur V. Nagam Aiya, when introducing his Bill on the Hindu Religious Endowments in 1899 estimated the value of temple endowments as Rs. 2 crores and his estimate of the number of temples was 10,000 in addition to 15,000 other places of Hindu worship such as serpent groves. When starting a temple the custom was to hand over landed properties of considerable value for the maintenance of these temples. Till 987 M. E. (1812) the State had no concern with the management of any temple. It was in that year that the management of 1,549 temples was taken over by Col. Munro, the Dewan-Resident with all their landed and other properties and appurtenances. Till then the management of these temples was in the hands of private people who formed themselves into Committees and controlled their affairs with remarkable cordiality of feeling and in a spirit of piety. In regard to these temples themselves, Mr. Nagam Aiya has given a realistic and graphic description in his Census Report of 1875. He wrote :—

"There is nothing more impressive to the fervent admirer of Nature than the spectacle of a Hindu pagoda in Travancore. Viewed either in respect of its religious importance, its architectural beauties, its health and commodiousness or the feeling which it creates in the human mind of the imposing scene around, it is alike useful and instructive. Unlike the habitations of men, the habitations of the Gods are like Olympus of old in the tops of distant hills, among cool groves in secluded valleys, and by the side of beneficent waters. The religious devotee, the Bramin Pundit, the student of the Vedas, the numerous votaries for the favours of the God, alike find it pleasant and sufficing for their purposes. On its festive occasions which send a thrill into the neighbourhood and call forth those great social gatherings unknown otherwise in the country, it alike attracts the commerce, the youth and the fashion of the land. The procession of the God, the illumination of the temple, the devout attitude of the old, the clasped hands of the thousands, the happy faces of the children, the solemn stillness around, all fill the mind with serene emotion and relieve the monotony of life."

From the financial point of view the major portion of the expenditure on these temples was met from the annual receipts of these temples. As long ago as 1873 the then Dewan Sir A. Seshaiya Sastri observed in his Administration Report thus :—

"The expenditure on temples has often formed the subject of unfavourable criticism which is wholly unwarranted by the real facts of the case, as will, I hope, be gathered from the above particulars, the exchequer bearing only the small sum of (62,000) out of a total charge of Rupees 5,73,000. The interest of Government in respect of these institutions is for the most part only that of a Trustee and, even were it otherwise, this State will be bound, as every other country in the world does, to maintain a church establishment out of public revenue."

Since then the management of temples has been a subject of anxious consideration for Government from various points of view. Prior to the appointment of the late Mr. M. K. Ramachandra Rao, High Court Judge in 1907 "to investigate and report upon the numerous and complicated

problems involved in the administration of State Charities and Devaswoms," three Officers had been appointed as special Officers, Messrs. Chempakaraman Pillai, Melezhuthu Pillai, A. Rama Iyer, Assistant to the Peishkar, Trivandrum and N. Rajaram Rao, Assistant to the Peishkar, Kottayam. On receipt of Mr. Ramachandra Rao's report in 1909 the Government passed proceedings in the course of which it was stated thus :—

> "Mr. Ramachandra Rao, after a somewhat elaborate consideration of the question, records the conclusion that the relation of the Government to the Devaswoms must be deemed to be wholly that of a Trustee, and that, therefore, the treatment of the Devaswom lands on the same footing as the Sirkar lands must be considered wrong. Mr. Ramachandra Rao also points out that, had it not been for this very wrong step, the Devaswom should, after the Revenue Settlement, have had property yielding annually 18 lacs of paras of paddy and Rs. 80,000 in cash, the capitalised value of which, at 3 per cent, should be over 4 crores of rupees. Mr. Ramachandra Rao thinks that with the income from the Devaswom lands the Sirkar should have been making a profit of two lacs of rupees annually, after meeting the maintenance charges of the Devaswoms."

The management of these temples continued to be in the hands of the Land Revenue Department. The immediate necessity arose for reform from the circumstance that Non-Hindus and the so-called non-caste Hindus have been representing to Government that, in the matter of appointment to public service, they were being denied admission into the Revenue Department because that Department had under it the entire management of temples in the State and that no one belonging to these communities could be employed as they were prevented from entrance or even approach, to the temples. With a view to satisfy the reasonable demands of these people the Government appointed in 1920 a Committee of Hindus and non-Hindus to consider and report upon the exact character of the assumption of these Devaswams, the

feasiblity of separating their administration from the Land Revenue Department and the nature and cost of the additional staff that might be necessary if the organisation of a separate Department be deemed desirable. The Committee recommended separation. With regard to the relationship that subsists between the State and the Devaswoms the Committee was "unanimously of the opinion that the Devaswoms were not *confiscated* by Col. Munro, but that the object aimed at by him was their better management and maintenance, and that the Government have incurred an obligation to maintain the Devaswoms *efficiently for all time to come.*"

The Government in accepting the recommendation of the Committee for separating it under a responsible Officer, issued a Proclamation in 1922 in which it was declared thus :—

> "And whereas in view of Our faith and religion it is Our solemn right and duty to maintain efficiently and in good condition Hindu religious institutions in Our State, irrespective of the income from such institutions or the cost of such maintenance, and, in pursuance of such right and duty, Our State has, from time immemorial, contributed from its Exchequer to the cost of such maintenance, to the extent necessary."

In the Government Press Communique which was issued by the Chief Secretary in 1922 based on the Proclamation it was also pointed out that "with regard to the relationship that subsists between the State and the Devaswoms, the Committee is unanimously of the opinion that the Devaswoms were not *confiscated* by Col. Munro but that the object aimed at by him was better management and maintenance, and that the Government have incurred an obligation to maintain the Devaswoms *efficiently for all time to come.*" It was in pursuance of these solemn obligations and declarations that a first class Officer was selected to organise a separate Department in 1922. Since then the Department has been worked in the real spirit of the Proclamation and several changes introduced with a view to "better management and maintenance." Renovation and reconstruction of a large number

of important temples have been effected and this work is being systematically carried out from year to year according to an approved scheme from funds specially allotted for the purpose. The annual expenditure under this item alone ranges from Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs. A reform recently carried out in the internal management of these temples is that regular hours have been fixed for the performance of *Pujas* and the practice in some temples of unshastric ceremonies being conducted during late and untimely hours has been stopped. Under the recent rules of procedure no temples would be allowed to be open after 12 o'clock at midnight and all religious functions should be so planned as to be brought to a close at midnight. Particular attention is insisted on neatness and best hygienic conditions being observed at all hours of day and night. A large number of temples had only meagre *pathivus* (or scale of expenditure) for their daily requirements. These were revised and, in spite of the fact, that the revised scale of expenditure was far in excess, ample provision has been made to meet the present day requirements necessitated by high prices of agricultural produce and other commodities. A very important and rich source of income for the temples was *natavaravu* or offerings in the shape of money, jewels, etc. As no one has any idea of the wealth under this head, the verification of these was undertaken and this task is nearing completion. A modern method of propaganda work undertaken by the Devaswom Department is to utilize the *Utsavams* and other periodical festivals and arrange for religious discourses with a view to disseminate among the masses correct knowledge of the principles of Hindu religion, philosophy and culture, which became imminently necessary in view of the aggressive evangelistic work carried on by Christian missionaries. The organisation of this branch of activities in pure self-defence had a wonderful effect. These lectures and discourses have had large and crowded audiences everywhere, so much so that the organisation of an institution under the name of "Sri Chitra Hindu Religious Library"

at the capital was rendered necessary. In this institution which is situated in the centre of the town, Trivandrum, to which a large auditorium is attached, lectures, *Parayanams* (recitations) on Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavatgita, etc., etc., are conducted almost daily in the evenings. Harikatha performances and learned discussions of complicated topics of Hindu philosophy by well known scholars both in and outside the State are special features in the educative programme. The large lecture hall in this institution is always overcrowded by the Hindu population. As it has been increasingly felt that there has been perceptible deterioration in the *Santhikars* or *pujaris* in the temples, a special school was started for giving the necessary Agamic training to the aspirants for the post of *Santi* from the communities from whom the Santikars are generally recruited. In addition to this Santi School, the Veda Section of His Highness the Maharaja's Sanskrit College at Trivandrum and the grant-in-aid Vedic Schools in the State have been placed under the administrative control of the Devaswom Department with a view to afford the Veda Students a knowledge of Agamic laws and procedure.

As for the private Hindu religious and Charitable Endowments in the State, there is the Hindu Religious Endowments Act to protect them from misconduct of any kind. The salutary provisions of this Act are largely availed of for the improvement of the condition of these private institutions and for ensuring that the original intentions and objects of these trusts are efficiently and properly carried out.

There is no doubt of the fact that during the past decade a new impetus has been given to spread among the Hindu Section correct ideas and notions on Hindu Religion and Hindu Philosophy so as to make the masses understand its tolerant, all-embracing and universal character. A new force and a new life have begun to influence all classes of Hindus and, coupled with the promulgation of the Temple Entry Proclamation, a sense of religious responsibility has dawned on

every Hindu who thinks and feels that his Maharaja is Defender of Hindu Faith not only in name but is also an active worker and inspirer of the Religion to which he belongs and that His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Tirunal has obliterated all ideas of unreasoning and unreasonable inequality in the matter of religion.

Conclusion

In the above paragraphs I have tried to pass in review some of the main measures—administrative, constitutional and legislative— which have been adopted during the past 10 years of His Highness' eventful reign. In the speech delivered on the memorable occasion of the Investiture Durbar His Highness briefly referred to the progress the State has made in the past, and passionately observed, "Need I say that it will be my earnest and constant endeavour to assist in the further development of the State on the same lines and to enable it to take its place in the vanguard of progress? * * Is it an unreasonable demand to ask that a State, exceeded in population only by Hyderabad and Mysore, should have its position more definitely and unequivocally recognised.?" Thus, the ambition of His Highness has been to raise the status of Travancore. Later on, in welcoming His Excellency Lord Willingdon in 1933 His Highness repeated the same sentiment when he said, "I feel I may make the boast that, historically and by their character and capacity, for education and discipline, my country and my people have justified their claim to be ranked among the most forward in India; to maintain this position in the future India, I shall strain every nerve." That His Highness has carried out every word contained in the above extracts is easily seen by a mere mention of certain facts connected with the solution of problems— both political and extra-territorial— in the handling of which no small amount of tact, wisdom, diplomacy and high moral worth has been displayed. "There are many and serious problems," said His Highness, "confronting India at the present

moment, and the future inter-relations of British India and the Indian States are under review. Far-reaching political and constitutional changes are being debated and deliberated upon, and, in view to these developments, I have, after consultation with His Excellency the Viceroy and yourself* decided to avail myself of the services of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who is a trusted friend of my family as my Legal and Constitutional Adviser." How shrewd and patriotic His Highness has been is shown by the manner in which several important questions have been handled during the past decade. It is my purpose to briefly refer to some of these problems and merely record how Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar has been intimately associated with the Travancore administration ever since the assumption of powers by His Highness the present Maharaja in November, 1931, when he was appointed as His Highness' Legal and Constitutional Adviser. The progress of the State during the last ten years is virtually a glorious record of the brilliant achievements of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, first as Legal and Constitutional Adviser and then as Dewan of the State. Soon after his appointment as Legal and Constitutional Adviser he devoted himself to secure for Travancore its rightful place among the Indian States and to get full recognition of the status due to her as one among the front-rank States in India. Long after the Treaty of 1805 certain political practices had grown up in Travancore in regard to matters materially affecting the status of the State although such practices received no specific sanction from the Treaties of Travancore with the British Power. For instance, the judgments of the High Court in criminal cases which involved a sentence of death or of life imprisonment used to be sent to the Resident when they were confirmed according to law by the Sovereign. According to the law of the land the Resident had no power of intervention whatsoever in the exercise by the High Court of its criminal jurisdiction. The practice of sending such

* Col. Pritchard, Agent to the Governor General, Madras States.

judgments to the Resident was, therefore, regarded as not only anamolous but also derogatory to the status of the State and it was through the efforts of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who was then Legal and Constitutional Adviser that His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to put a stop to this practice. Again, legislative enactments including Bills considered by the legislature had to be forwarded to the Resident for remarks before they were taken up for third reading in the Legislative Council. This practice was also inconsistent with original political status and was stopped. Thirdly, the State appointments to offices carrying a salary of Rs. 500 and above used to be made after previous intimation was given to the Resident. This was also dispensed with. It is noteworthy that, although these political practices were regarded till then as vital factors in the relations between Travancore and the Paramount Power, the reasonableness of the contentions of Travancore was recognised only when Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar pressed the matter before the Representative of the Crown.

It has been the endeavour of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar to uphold and advance the status of the State in other directions as well. Throughout the federal negotiations Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar was never tired of bringing to the forefront the claims of Travancore for recognition on a footing of equality with Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda. The unique position of Travancore as the premier maritime State in India was always stressed during all stages of these negotiations. Whenever the interests of States were sought to be represented in bodies or organisations set up by the Government of India, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar has advocated individual and independent representation for Travancore; and as this principle had not received full and adequate recognition at the hands of those responsible for the recent reorganisation of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes, Travancore decided not to participate in the work of that body. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar has, however,

succeeded in securing for Travancore due representation in several Committees and other Boards and Conferences set up for discussion of matters of common interest to States and Provinces.

Travancore has been specially fortunate that in its dealings with other States and with the Government of India in regard to several problems affecting its financial and economic interests it has been able to secure the services of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, one of the most eminent lawyer-statesmen of India. Soon after he became the Legal and Constitutional Adviser in Travancore, disputes arose regarding the interpretation of the terms of the Cochin Harbour Agreement of 1925. It was contended by one of the parties to the Agreement that the tripartite division of customs receipts contemplated in the agreement could commence only with the completion of the fourth stage works of the Harbour. If this interpretation was upheld, Travancore would have had to contribute a very large sum, namely, one-third of the total expenditure of nearly 100 lakhs, without being entitled to any portion of the customs receipts until after completion of the fourth stage works. In other words, between 1931 and 1941 Travancore would have been under an obligation merely to contribute money while deriving no profits whatsoever. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar argued the case for Travancore before Sir Joseph Bhore, the Commerce Member to the Government of India and it was decided that with effect from 1st April 1931 one-third of the customs receipts at the Port of Cochin was to be paid to Travancore according to the provisions in the Agreement of 1925. On the construction of the Clause in the Agreement of 1925 relating to the pooling of revenue derived by Travancore on Jaffna tobacco there arose some dispute which was also eventually settled in favour of Travancore through the legal acumen and resourceful statecraft of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar. This resulted in a refund to the State of nearly 12 lakhs of rupees. Later on, differences came to a head with respect to the revision of the Cochin

Harbour Agreement as preliminary to the commencement of the fourth stage works and it looked as if further progress of the Port development scheme would be held up for ever. Here again, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar succeeded in securing for Travancore favourable terms under the revised Agreement of 1935; and today, no small portion of the import customs revenue of the State is derived from the division of the customs receipts at the port of Cochin under this Agreement. Provision has also been made in the revised Agreement for equal representation on the Cochin Port Trust both for the Travancore and the Cochin Governments and until the Port Trust is formed equal representation has been given for Travancore and Cochin on the Cochin Harbour Advisory Board.

There had been longstanding disputes between Travancore and Cochin as to the terms and conditions subject to which Alwaye Waters might be diverted to Cochin. Although in the agreement of 1916 a specified quantity of water was permitted to be diverted for the use of the Ernakulam Water Supply Scheme, subsequent negotiations during the Dewanship of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar have resulted in the full recognition of the legal rights of Travancore in relation to such diversion. In fact the whole legal position in regard to this matter has now been settled to the satisfaction of both Governments. Similarly, as regards the claim put forward by the Madras Government to generate electricity out of the Periyar waters diverted for irrigation purposes in the Madura District, the Travancore Government contended that the Madras Government could not exercise any such right without the consent of the Travancore Government and that unless a fresh agreement permitting the generation of electricity from such waters was entered into, the claim set up by the Madras Government would constitute a violation of the terms of the Periyar lease. The matter came up for arbitration and Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar argued the case

on behalf of Travancore. The case for Travancore could not have been put in a stronger light than by its Dewan-Advocate.

Delicate questions arose in connection with the Koodalmanickom Temple which involved the implementing of the rights secured to Travancore under treaties between Travancore and Cochin in relation to that Temple. Through the efforts of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Dewan these delicate questions have been most satisfactorily solved and problems which appeared impossible of solution have since been settled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Every well-wisher of Indian India would, in his heart of hearts, like the best of cordial and friendly relations to exist among Indian States, especially with those who are close neighbours and are bound up with ties of mutual recognition of personal contact and historic and other traditions. Unfortunately, this was not the case between Travancore and Cochin. For numerous reasons the relations between these two States were marred by certain disputes and differences. It is, therefore, a matter of sincere gratification that a new leaf in the history—political as well as domestic—of these two States has been turned by the arrangements entered into between Travancore and Cochin for the supply of electric power to Cochin from the Pallivasal Scheme and the compact brought about in the matter of the Cochin Harbour which are, no doubt, indications of better tone in official relations. But a more striking fact recently noticed which is full of promise from a domestic and personal point of view is the visit paid by Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan of Travancore, to Cochin in March last and the holding of several functions in honour of the Travancore Dewan which, it is hoped, will further cement the social and domestic relations. It is also the earnest wish of the people of the two States that the first link forged by the Sachivothama will also prove to be strong and abiding.

The question regarding retrocession of jurisdiction over Railway lands has been exercising the minds of the Rulers of Indian States for a very long time. It is well known that during the federal negotiations all important Indian States raised this matter for the immediate attention of the Paramount Power. The problem has been regarded as one bristling with difficulties both from the point of view of the Central Government and the States. Cession of jurisdiction over Railway lands situated within Travancore, especially between Trivandrum and Shencottah, had resulted in great administrative inconvenience and Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar promptly took up the matter with the Paramount Power to re-solve the difficulties and inconveniences arising from the vesting of jurisdiction in an external authority. In the special circumstances of Travancore the Dewan has been able to secure for the State the benefit of retrocession in its favour of every kind of jurisdiction hitherto exercised over the Railway lands between Trivandrum and Shencottah by the British Government. This is an achievement of special significance.

The thirty-year old agitation for a University for Kerala had not ceased when Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar became Dewan of Travancore. The details of this agitation are discussed in the Chapter on "Travancore University" and the progress made by this University since its inauguration is summarised in the Second Part dealing with the decade's review of the Administration under the head of "March of Education." When Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar took up the question and examined it in all its bearings, he thought it was impractical to establish a University for the whole of Kerala, as it bristled with difficulties from every side. But the Sachivothama was impressed with the urgent need for a separate University for Travancore. The idea did not find a ready acceptance from responsible quarters. But, when he worked the scheme and pointed out that the object of the Travancore Government was not to produce a replica of the existing Universities in India and that his objective was a re-orientation of

the whole Educational system, with special reference to the development of research and Technological studies and the application of the lessons of research to the practical solution of industrial problems for which there was wide scope, there was a greater response from the Government of India. The Sachivothama then decided to depute the Special University Officer, Mr. C. V. Chandrasekaran, to Delhi to have the whole question discussed with the Officers at the Central Government. The authorities of the Government of India were sympathetic and their good will and co-operation were secured. Mr. Sargent, the Educational Commissioner, subsequently paid a visit to Trivandrum when he had an opportunity to meet the Sachivothama who expounded to him the ideals the Travancore Government had in view. The clear-cut idea and the original line of action proposed by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar evidently appealed to Mr. Sargent and settled the matter. It may be mentioned here that the scheme would not have been a *fait accompli* but for his personal influence and the practicality and soundness of his scheme. The University made very good and striking progress during the past three years under the wise, vigilant and inspiring guidance of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as its Vice-Chancellor—perhaps the most brilliant Vice-Chancellor in India—and it is now recognised by the Government of India for all its Competitive Examinations. Having been convinced of the excellent work of the Travancore University and of the sound lines it has chalked out for itself, most of the Universities in India have established closer contact with this, the youngest University, on a reciprocal basis in the matter of Examinations and other ways of recognition. This, coupled with the significant fact that British Malabar and Cochin State are also sitting up and taking notice of the Travancore University is additional testimony to the success of this University. Encouraged by these tokens of recognition it is the idea of the Sachivothama to work for the conservation and promotion of the ancient culture and arts of Kerala;

and the establishment in Trivandrum of such centres of learning and liberal culture as the Oriental MSS. Library, the Sri Chithralaya, the School of Dancing, the revival of *Kathakali* and other age-old institutions under the distinguished patronage of His Highness Sir Sri Chitra Thirunal Maharaja is perhaps the first step towards the consummation of one of the objects the University has set for itself, *viz.*, the regeneration of the Arts of Kerala.

In the matter of communications, certain difficulties were experienced in linking up the State telephone system in Travancore with British India. Negotiations were started by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar with the Government of India for linking up the State system with the British Indian Trunk System. A satisfactory adjustment was made with the Central Government with regard to financial and other arrangements connected with the matter and today Travancore is getting trunk connection from the Cape to Peshawar and to Simla.

The programme of industrial development on which Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar embarked from the very commencement of his Dewanship has been dealt with elsewhere in this volume. The State Transport System, the Pallivasal Electricity Scheme, the Rubber Factory, the Ceramic Factory and the proposed Aluminium and Cement Factories mark a great epoch in the history of industrial progress in Travancore. His schemes for enhanced production of food materials and for the pursuit of intensive agriculture are bound to make Travancore self-sufficient in the matter of food supply and usher in an era of economic prosperity.

The constitutional reforms and the great social and religious reform *viz.*, the Temple Entry Proclamation which have been promulgated on the advice of the Sachivothama have been fairly exhaustively dealt with elsewhere in this volume.

With the outbreak of war, Travancore suffered a severe set-back in the matter of export of its products. The

economic wealth of the State consists mainly in its exports particularly of cocoanut and coir products. The foreign markets for coir products were almost closed to Travancore as many of the countries which used to consume a large proportion of Travancore coir products became enemy countries. The only country in Europe to which coir products might go is the United Kingdom and here too several restrictions were imposed in the matter of imports of coir goods as such goods were not considered to be essential war supplies. The result was a great crisis in the coir industry in Travancore accompanied by labour unemployment on a scale hitherto unknown in the State. Literally, hundreds and thousands of families were reduced to starvation. The Dewan rose equal to the occasion to meet the immediate situation. Large amounts were allotted from the State Exchequer to provide food by distribution of rice among the labourers. Public Works costing several lakhs of rupees were started as relief measures in order to provide employment to the workmen thrown out from factories. Repeated representations were made to the British Government through the Government of India for relaxation of the rules restricting imports of coir goods from Travancore. This had the desired effect. The Ministry of Shipping included coir mattings on the priority list to the extent of 3,333 shipping tons from Malabar Coast and also permitted exports into United Kingdom of 4,666 bales of coir yarn per mensem. It was also understood that the Joint Ministry of Shipping agreed to grant licence for 36 per cent of pre-war imports of mats and mattings into the United Kingdom in addition to the goods required for Government contracts. Though the situation was relieved to some extent on this account, it was not considered sufficient and further action was taken to secure larger orders for the State. The attention of the War Supply Board was drawn to the facilities that existed for the supply of coir goods for war purposes. The Dewan had repeated consultation with the authorities in Delhi on the subject and the result was very

encouraging to the industry in Travancore. Large orders have been placed by the War Supply Department for coir goods from Travancore both in the form of 'tent components' made of coir and of coir mattings. The factories soon became active again and full-time work has been restored in them. In fact, labourers who were starving the other day and who were prepared to accept anything to relieve their distress are now fully employed and the problem at present is to settle disputes between the factory owners and the labour, as the latter have begun to demand higher and higher wages and to stipulate conditions which are considered exhorbitant by the employers. All these are hard facts of history and do not stand in need of any comment.

As soon as war was declared in September 1939, His Highness the Maharaja placed the entire resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor. His Highness also made a contribution of Rs. 6½ lakhs to provide a Trawler for minesweeping and submarine detection. This Trawler has been named "Travancore." A fighter plane as well as the services of the State Forces and Labour Corps were also offered, and Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi made a contribution for the purchase of an ambulance car. The Travancore House at Delhi was placed at the disposal of the Government of India. One battalion of the State Forces whose services have been accepted, already left the State in October last. Addressing the officers and men of the first Travancore Nair Infantry at a farewell parade on the eve of their departure for Cannanore for further training prior to proceeding on active service, His Highness the Maharaja exhorted them to maintain the high traditions of the Travancore Army, and return home with victory. The men looked remarkably encouraged and cheerful and lustily cheered their Maharaja on the conclusion of the Address. In speaking to them His Highness said :—

> "I have come here this morning to say a few words to you on the eve of your departure from the State for war purposes.

This is a notable occasion in recent annals, though not the first of its kind in Travancore history. In the early days of the rise of the British Power in India, Travancore troops fought side by side with the British Army and it is recorded that, in the united action, they were universally allowed to have behaved remarkably well. During the last Great War, Travancoreans went forth for service—men from the Army as well as from outside—and returned home with success and credit. Now again you are going out as a regular organized Unit and I fully believe that you will not only realise that a great opportunity has come to you but also that a great responsibility rests on you.

I shall follow your movements with the closest interest and solicitude. We all pray for the speedy and successful termination of the war and look forward to your return home with victory and honour.

With these words, I bid you Godspeed."

Besides these a large amount has been contributed by public subscriptions for War Purposes in various ways. His Highness' latest act of generosity was in the shape of two "Spitfires" which have been named Travancore I and Travancore II. Travancore in the Land's End of India has thus risen equal to the occasion in the eyes of the world and shown how she can help in the fight for Freedom, Truth and Justice and stand for **Eternal Dharma** which every Hindu holds as the only Key to well-ordered Life in this Universe.

A Personal Note

It is my desire to bring this book to a close with this personal note about the Sachivothama. In my book "Souvenir of the Sashtiabdapurthi of Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. I. E., LL. D., the Dewan of Travancore" I wrote as follows in Chapter VII "Memorials." "They (memorials) are so many in number and so varied in their form, utility, cost and design that they will first produce a feeling of surprise. The spontaniety which has evoked these tokens of grateful regard to a man, even though he is the Dewan of the State, is arresting. I have had experience of

the public life of the State and its people for more than forty years and have never seen such an outburst of enthusiasm—loyal and grateful enthusiasm—to commemorate the name of a Dewan." At that time the number of memorials was 40 distributed over 28 stations " where the name of the Sachivothama will be immortalised in some permanent form or other." I also observed :—

> "One great result that has followed in the wake of this enthusiastic move to commemorate this auspicious event (Sashtiabdapurthi) is that it has aroused in the mass mind a new outlook in life, a new desire to co-operate and initiate schemes of public charity, philanthrophy, and munificence and unite in a spirit of helpfulness in a public cause. That the people of all castes, classes and communities, whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Christians, whether they are merchants, traders, bankers, Vakils or other businessmen, have participated in this movement and have freely and ungrudgingly given of their earnings is by itself an achievement of considerable significance for the future of the country. This is an unforgetable lesson, an effaceable idea which owes its creation and practical application to the inspiration of a great name a name that will live in the history of Travancore by whomsoever it may be written."

After the lapse of more than one year the sentiments given expression to in the above sentences stand confirmed and strengthened by subsequent events. In spite of the fact that the Dewan has discouraged further memorials being started by declining sanction to several persons who approached him for permission, the number stands today as 65 which may be classified thus :—

1.	Medical Wards	15
2.	Town Halls	6
3.	Memorial Buildings	6
4.	Educational institutions	6
5.	Libraries	4
6.	Reading Rooms	4
7.	Parks	3
8.	Oil paintings	3
9.	Lamp Posts	3

10.	Weaving Institutes	3
11.	Rest Houses	3
12.	Wells	2
13.	Swimming Pool	1
14.	Radio Installation	1
15.	Ayurvedic Hospital	1
16.	Pillar	1
17.	Sports Tournaments	1
18.	Poor House	1
19.	Road	1
20.	Load Rest	1

These are found in 53 stations which are more or less rural in character. Out of 30 Taluks in the State there are memorials in 27 Taluks. The total cost of these 65 memorials comes to very nearly Rs. 2 lakhs. These facts are eloquent in themselves and render any words of explanation or comment unnecessary, but reveal the interesting information that no Dewan has had this unique honor shown him.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I

Beauty Spots of Travancore

1. Cape Comorin.

Cape Comorin or *Kanyakumari*, is the Land's End of India, a place of pilgrimage and a health resort. Three seas meet at this point, and those who have not seen the sunrise and the sunset at the Cape have missed a most glorious sight. This is the only place in the whole world from which one sitting in the same position can witness both sun rise and sun set. Good accommodation can be had both at Government and private Satrams at the place; and the Cape Hotel run by the Government affords all modern conveniences. A swimming-pool providing all the pleasures of sea-bathing with none of its risks has been constructed on the sea-front. The place is connected with Nagercoil by regular bus service and is 54 miles from Trivandrum. This is the longest concrete road in India. Leepuram containing possibilities for a sheltered harbour is within 2½ miles of the Cape on the east coast, while the ancient fort known as Vattakkotta five miles away is worth a visit.

On the beach side near the temple can be seen sands of different colours. The legend is that Kanyakumari or the Virgin Goddess was to have been married by God Siva or Sthanumurti at Suchindram. A night was fixed for the marriage. Unfortunately, Siva did not turn up. The next day the rice stocked for the marriage feast was converted into sands of different colours. The Goddess remained a Virgin. Whether there are any scientific reasons for the coloured sands at this particular portion of the beach has yet to be investigated.

The antiquity of the temple at Kanyakumari is not disputed for there is a reference to this temple in the Hindu Epic of Mahabharata. Coming to later times, there is a passage in *Periplus* where it is recorded thus:—"Those who wish to consecrate the

closing part of their lives to religion come hither and bathe and pledge themselves to celibacy." *Manimekhala*, an ancient and well known Tamil work of the second century, narrates a tradition to the effect that Sati, wife of a Brahmin of Benares, walked all the way to Cape Comorin, bathed in the sea there, worshipped at the feet the Goddess, Kanyakumari and was purged of her sin of unchastity.

2. Munnar: Queen of the Hill Stations.

Travancore is well known throughout India as a land specially blessed by Nature. Though it is sometimes disignated as "The Kashmir of the South," it is distinctly more than that. It presents a happy blending of the wonderful beauties of land and sea which is found no where else in India, if not the whole world. Cape Comorin and Warkalai have attractions peculiar to themselves and draw hundreds of visitors, mostly Hindu pilgrims. But the glory of Munnar is different. Situated in the High Ranges of Travancore, its beauties are not known even to those in the State itself, because of its once inaccessibility and remoteness. The cloud capped hills soaring into the majestic heights spreading their eternal verdure, the lovely dales rich in their wavy surface of ever green carpet arranged tier above tier as it were, the lonely valleys with their thick layer of dew which looks like a river of milk melting into thin air with the rising of the sun, the little brooklets murmurring through the bushy jungles in their own music, the mighty streams girgling in their measured rythm—these are "Beauties of Nature" which even Lord Avebury would have envied. Such is Munnar, the headquarters of the European Planting District in the High Ranges of Travancore. With an elevation of over 5,000 feet it proudly competes with Ooty, the summer capital of the Madras Government, in its salubrious climate and in all the natural advantages of a summer resort where mortal man may rest after a heavy spell of work in the plains. The very name "Munnar" means three rivers (*Munnu*, three, *Ar*, river,) but one may easily note not three but thrice three rivulets careering along in this earthly paradise. It is a small town which owes its foundation entirely to the enterprise and forethought of the European planter. About sixty-three years ago it

was an uninhabited evergreen forest, the natural and undisputed habitat of the majestic elephant, the terrible tiger, the mighty bison, the ferocious panther, the barbarous bear and other wild animals. The earliest ancestor of the European planter in Travancore seems to have been one Mr. J. D. Munro, a Scotchman of considerable foresight and business instinct, who first secured about 200 square miles of land for purposes of cultivation. The North Travancore Planting and Agricultural Society was the name of the organisation to which this large area was given on certain terms. Later on, it was changed into the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company. The story which is very interesting is that the whole tract of land belonged to one Kannan Devan, a local chieftain. Without going into the early period, it will be sufficient for our purpose to say that the Travancore Government assigned this large slice of forest and grass land for purposes of coffee cultivation which at that time attracted capitalists both from Travancore and outside. In view of the immense potentialities of development of the State the Government in those days invited European planters and offered them inducements to start work in Travancore. While the Indians failed in the hopeless task of opening those thick primeval forests, infested with terrible animals, the Europeans admirably succeeded with their courage, pluck and grit and at the risk of human life and expenditure of enormous amount of money they cleared the dreaded home of God's wild life into man's peaceful abode. Munnar is today an European colony chiefly controlled by about 70 planters working under the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company. There are 33 tea estates of which 25 are worked by electric power generated by the Travancore Government at Pallivasal. The total area of tea under cultivation is about 29,000 acres which last year produced approximately 15½ million lbs. of tea. The Indian population, including coolies, contractors and staff is about 35,000. An excellent and well-planned market has been built by the Company which is well patronised. There are over 200 miles of roads constructed by the Company with costly bridges. An up-to-date hospital with an installation of X-ray apparatus, a High School and a chain of primary schools for the education of the children

of Indians, including coolies, are other institutions generously conducted by the Company. When I visited the High School I saw in the highest class some children of coolies, which shows how the uplift of the cooly class is going on. There were 50 boarders in the residential quarters attached to the school, of whom 40 were boys and 10 were girls. The dormitory, the dining hall, the kitchen and their study rooms were examples of tidiness and neatness which by itself is an education to them.

In 1901 there was only one outlet to and from the Kanan Devan Hills and that was *via* Bodinayakanur. The Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company's traffic had to be conducted from Kodaikanal Road to Bottom Station by carts, a distance of 60 miles, and thereafter transported by Aerial Ropeway, a distance of 3 miles.

From Top Station to Munnar the transport at that time was conducted by Mono-Rail Trucks drawn by bullocks. This method of transport was, in 1909, superseded by a light railway of 2' gauge.

The floods of 1924 washed away lengthy portions of this railway and it was then decided to lay down an Aerial Ropeway extending from Munnar to Top Station, a distance of 14 miles which is believed to be one of the longest, if not the longest Aerial Ropeway in India.

The High Range, as the Kannan Devan Hills are known, is now well equipped with outlet roads and it is worthy of mention that planters can proceed from Munnar to Cochin by car in about 4 hours. I might also mention that the Travancore Government is now transporting the Kannan Devan Company's produce and goods between Munnar and Cochin in up-to-date lorries. Munnar can be reached from the British District of Coimbatore also and there are passenger motor buses plying for hire between Udumalpet and Munnar. Now that the Neriamangalam—Pallivasal Road has been opened, motor buses for passengers are operating between Munnar and Kottayam to Alwaye are further on to the Cochin Harbour.

3. Peermade.

Peermade, 49 miles north east of Kottayam and 3,500 feet above sea level, is a hill station with a delightfully cool climate during the hot months of the year. It owes its name to a Mahomedan saint whose tomb is at Kuttikkanam, four miles away. Recent excavations in the Tengakkal Estate near Vandiperiyar have resulted in the discovery of large dolmens, cromlechs and menhirs, which throw considerable light on the burial customs of pre-historic races in South India. Rubber and tea plantations are numerous in the region.

Tekkati, on the Periyar Lake, is within 2 miles of Kumili and 14 miles from Cumbum. The Periyar Dam is eight miles from Tekkati. The Periyar is entirely a Travancore river. It is by damming this river that water is taken for irrigation in the Madura District through a tunnel over a mile in length. Not far from Tekkati on the Periyar Lake is the Royal Game Sanctuary where elephant, tiger, bison, panther, bear, sambur, spotted deer and other fauna can be seen at close quarters grazing or roaming on the shores of the lake or on the adjacent hills. A cruise on the lake to see these animals in their natural state and to enjoy and admire the magnificent scenery, nowhere excelled in the East, is alone worth a trip to Travancore. A State camp shed at Thekkad and two British Government camp-sheds at the place afford accommodation to the visitor, while at the other end of the lake called Edappalayam, there is a beautiful Bungalow surrounded on the three sides by the lake.

4. Varkalai, the Gaya of the South.

Though Travancare, deservedly described as the Kashmir of the South, has several beauty spots, very few enjoy the popularity, the varied scenery and a happy combination of land and sea views which Varkalai affords. It is about 22 miles trom Trivandrum, the capital of the State, is about the same from Quilon, and is reached by the South Indian Railway. It is a famous place of pilgrimage for Hindus of all denominations throughout India under the name of Janardhan, and devotees flock almost every day to this Gaya of the South.

To the scientist, Varkalai is well-known from its geological formation and has been inspected and examined carefully by hordes of geologists and a large volume of interesting literature is carefully preserved in the archives of the Government of India. A lover of nature would not easily reconcile himself to the idea of tearing himself away from those unsurpassed "Beauties of Nature" when once he is in the midst of them. The vast vista of cocoanut palm that spreads for miles and miles on the coast is a magnificent and refreshing sight.

Besides the enchanting sea-view there is the backwater journey by a canal hewn out of the tremendous heights of hills on either side of it. There are two tunnels, 924 and 2,364 feet long, through which traffic passes. These were completed in 1877 and in 1880 respectively and have since then been in daily use. The vegetation on either side of the canal, rising in height is a magnificent sight. Just at the mouth of one of these tunnels is a series of springs from which gushes out sparkling water throughout the whole year. The water is supposed to have medicinal properties to cure certain ailments. Even a single bath is a tonic which no traveller should miss.

The temple, which is located on one of the hill-tops, is reached by a long and wearisome flight of steps, and one feels tired on arriving at the feet of Janardhan, an *Avatar* of Vishnu. The Nava-Prajapatis excited Brahma's anger by jesting at his expense. This put him out and he cursed the Nava-Prajapatis that they should become human beings and suffer the miseries of birth and death. Narada consoled them and advised them to do penance at a place he himself would select for them by throwing his *valkalam* (bark garment), which fell on a tree now identified with the spot in front of the temple. Hence the name Varkalai, a corruption of *Valkala*.

A temple was built by them near the place and was consecrated to Vishnu. But this is said to have been washed away by the sea. Long after this a Pandyan King happened to come to this place. He was haunted by a *Brahmarakshas* or ghost of a Brahmin whom he had killed unawares, and to expatiate the sin

he performed several ceremonies and went to several places of pilgrimage, all of no avail. To his surprise the King found that, as soon as he came to this place, he cast only one shadow, his own. This naturally excited his curiosity and on enquiry he was advised to build a temple here in the place of the one washed away. The temple was soon under construction and one night the god appeared to him in a dream and told him that on a particular day there would be some flowers floating on the sea at a particular spot, where at the bottom would be found the original idol, which the king was asked to consecrate in the new temple. Accordingly, the idol was found by a fisherman but with the right arm broken. The broken arm was attached to the body by golden leaves. An auspicious hour was fixed for the consecration and everything was got ready, but at the appointed time all the assembled persons fell into a trance and Brahma himself came there and after consecrating the idol disappeared. The king, very much gratified, stayed for some time, endowed the temple liberally, and, after entrusting the management to a body of trustees the chief of whom was Karuthedathu Pazhur Nambudiripad, usurped all the powers to himself and in the reign of Umayamma Rani (1677-84), the management was taken over by the Sirkar. There are several holy *Tirtams* (waters) near the place whose origin is variously stated.

(2) OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES OF INTEREST.

Trivandrum. is the capital of the State and the residence of the Ruler. It forms the southern terminus of the Travancore branch of the South Indian Railway. The celebrated shrine of Sri Padmanabhaswami within the Fort has made the city a great religious centre and attracts pilgrims from all parts of India. The Fort and its neighbourhood constitute the most crowded part of the town. The Kawdiar Palace, the Residency, the Government offices and other public buildings and the residences of the upper classes are picturesquely situated on small eminences, each commanding a refreshing scene of verdure all around. The town has efficient elactric supply and is well equipped with colleges, schools and hospitals. It is also the seat of the Travancore University started in 1937. The city is provided

with protected water from the Willingdon Water Works the water supplied being of a high standard of purity, copious and under adequate pressure. A Drainage and Sweage Scheme on up-to-date lines is near completion. The convenience and comfort of travellers who visit Trivandrum are well attended to by the Mascot Hotel near the Museum and Public Gardens. There is a well laidout Park with a Museum and a menagerie. The Avenue Road, one of the best roads in South India, with the Kaudiyar Square and the Vellayampalam Square, is one of the attractive drives in the town. The Aerodrome at Sankhumukham brings Trivandrum within easy reach of the important towns in India. An Air Mail runs between Trivandrum and Bombay. The seaport is at Valiaturai, about one mile from the town. It is an open road-stead, with deep water close to the shore. A pier for the landing and shipment of cargo, 750 feet in length, and fitted with two stream cranes, has been erected. The five fathom depth line is about 600 feet off the end of the pier, but steamers anchor in 12¼ fathoms 4/10 of a mile off shore. It is a port of call for coasting steamers when inducement offers. The offices, important business houses and private residences are connected by telephone, the system being worked by Government; and it is also be linked up with the Indian Trunk Line. An annual exhibition and fair is held in connection with the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja in October—November. Ivory works of art and laced cloths, for the production of which Travancore workmen have long been famous, are available for sale in large quantities. The magnificent white sands make the beach a delightful evening resort; and there are facilities for safe bathing in the sea. The Travancore University located here is designed to give a new orientation to education generally and is wedded to high ideals in regard to the development of scientific research, technological education, and the study of Kerala art and culture.

Alleppey, famed for its almost all-the-year-round sea-port, and the most important commercial town of Travancore, owes its origin to Raja Kesava Das, the State's great Dewan in the latter half of the 18th century. It has often been called the 'Venice of

Travancore' on account of its being almost wholly surrounded by sea and back-waters and the many canals that intersect the town, carrying country-craft laden with merchandise.

A very striking feature of the Alleppey Port is its oily mud-bank which is a peculiar phenomenon on the Travancore sea coast. It is supposed that this wonderful phenomenon of still water in the midst of a raging sea is caused by an underground efflux of a mud-and-oil mixture from the backwaters to the sea under pressure of the heavy monsoon discharges of the rivers. Scientists have differed and Navigators have not agreed, as to the cause of its formation, and the direction of its movements. The Bed extends over an area of eight to ten square miles and it has been found to form along the coast somewhere between Pathiankara 18 miles south of Alleppey and Thumboli about 4 miles north of the port. In 1894 it was off Thrikkunnapuzha about 12 miles to the south of Alleppey; in 1905 it was off Alleppey; in 1915 the Bed was somewhere about Pathiankara, the southern extremity; in 1920 it was off Porakkad and five years later it appeared at Thumboli, the northern extremity; from 1930-35 it was in position off Alleppey Port. Last year it moved on to a few miles to the south and was seen at Ambalapuzha. Though nothing definite can be said about the periodicity of its erratic movements, it can be stated safely that its movement is confined practically between Pathiankara in the south and Thumboli in the north to a distance of 22 miles. The Bed is greenish dark in colour and is found to consist of loose soft mud suspended about 8' to 10' thick and spread in the bottom of the sea.

The earliest mention about the existence of the Bed is in the Notes of Captain Hamilton, the well known Navigator wherein it is stated that "in 1825 the Mud Bank had shifted from N. Lat. 9° 40' to N. Lat. 9° 25' being 15 miles in 102 years." In the writings of Dr. King and and M. Philip Lake of the Geological Survey of India this phenomenon is described and in the India Directory of 1874 (page 130) the bank formation and its probable causes are explained at length. One of the causes attributed to the formation of the Mud Bed is tha the higher level and the

consequent greater hydraulic pressure of water in the lakes which produces a subterranean flow into the sea during monsoons results in the formation of the Bed. Another view is that the mud is from old river deposits found only at particular points along the coast. The opinion is current among some scientists that it is a Mud Volcans.

In previous years when the bed did not develop at Alleppey, it was customary to declare and work steamers at the place where the mud was found in position, as at Thrikkunnapuzha, Porakkad, etc., as monsoon ports, in lieu of Alleppey during monsoons. The wonderful feature of this Mud Bank is that, besides providing calm waters for the safe anchoring and working of steamers, the bed affords a safe and excellent shelter for cargo boats from the fury of elements when they have to be kept at anchor in the open sea without work. Thus it will be seen that it is a valuable protection afforded by nature. An interesting fact is that prawns breed in large quantities over this area which is a source of revenue to the State.

Another Mud Bed has been formed at Thumboli and this was found out last year. There are at present two Beds, the one at Ambalapuzha and the other at Thumboli.

The port was opened to foreign trade in 1762, when Kesava Das built three ships for trade with Bombay and Calcutta. Alleppey is the world's supplier ef coir-matting and coir-yarn. It also exports cocoanuts, cocoanut-oil, pepper, ginger, rubber and cashewnuts. The town is the second largest in Travancore, containing a population of nearly 50,000. It has a pier 773 feet long and 21 feet broad fitted with two steam cranes and two hand cranes for handling cargo, and has also large godown accommodation. The port is closed during the S. W. monsoon generally from about the 15th May till the 15th August. Steamers, however, call at or near the port during the monsoon, when weather conditions permit, and when the mud-bank is sufficiently developed to afford smooth water for shipping operations, as may be notified by the Marine Department. The port is also provided with a light house. The town is connected with the Trunk Telephone; and there is

protected water supply. It boasts of a small Jain colony and contains a Jain Temple. The town is supplied with electricity from the P. H. E. Project.

Alwaye on the banks of the river Periyar in North Travancore affords the finest summer-bathing in South India and is a busy little town in the summer months of March, April and May, when it is swelled to several times its size by a great influx of holiday-makers who come here for the sake of the sparkling mineral waters for which the river is famous at this spot. The Shoranur-Cochin Railway passes through the place which forms one of the larger stations on the line. The Periyer bifurcates at Alwaye, the two distributaries making, before they empty into the sea, an extensive delta filled with paddy, sugarcane and cocoanut palm cultivation. At the head of the two branches is a famous image dedicated to Siva, a mid-stream shrine festooned with legend and tradition. The famous Alwaye-Sivaratri in February —March attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over South India, an added attraction for the visitors being the great fair which lasts several weeks and is one of the biggest annual fairs in South India. In 1790 the river Periyar by its impassibility at this place in the monsoon-time thwarted the ambition of Tippu Sultan to overrun Travancore as he had done Cochin. Alwaye is well supplied with educational institutions, including a residential First Grade College set amidst charming surroungings and is a rising industrial centre. The Sri Chitra Rayon Mill named after His Highness the Maharaja is run by Messrs. E. D. Sasson Ltd., of Bombay. The Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme and the development of the Cochin Harbour have invested Alwaye with a future full of promise. A big industrial concern in the shape of an Aluminium Factory is soon to come into existence. A site covering 50 acres of land has been purchased and the necessary buildings are under construction. It is expected that the factory will be in working condition before the end of 1942.

Ambalapuzha is eight miles to the South of Alleppey and was once the capital of the Chempakasseri principality annexed to Travancore by Maharaja Martanda Varma in 1754. Here is an

ancient temple dedicated to Sri Krishna, the sanctity of which is known throughout the Malabar country and which has often been called the "Dwaraka of the South". An interesting circumstance connected with the shrine is the special *Nivedyam* offered to the deity *viz.*, the *Palpayasam*. The fame of this Ambalapuzha *Palpayasam* has travelled far and wide on account of both its intrinsic excellence and the sanctity associated with it as *Nivedyam*. The place is accessible by both land and water.

Anamuti is the highest peak in Southern India. The thickly wooded plateau known as the High Ranges in the north-eastern part of the State spreads itself like a wheel round its axis, Anamuti, 8,837 feet high. *Anamuti* means the Elephant-Crown of the Anamalais, the Elephant-Hills as the High Range is often called.

Ariyankavu is a small village on the ghats section of the Travancore Railway, overlooking the mountain pass zigzagging from Madura and Tinnevelly to Travancore through the thronging hills and forests. The railway here passes through a tunnel about half a mile long. Enchanting mountain scenery unrolls itself all round. Near the Railway station is the Aryankavu temple dedicated to Sasta, the guardian of the hills. It is believed that this is one of the five temples dedicated to the same deity and established on the ghats by Parasurama himself, the divine incarnation who is said to have created the Malabar country from the Arabian sea. The woodland deity is worshipped, especially during the *Mandalapuja* and *Tirukkalyanam* in December, by hundreds of devotees from Madura, Viravanallur and other places in the Tamil country.

Aruvikkarai, eleven miles north of Trivandrum is the seat of the head-works of the water-supply project to the Capital. Here an overflow dam arrests a prattling woodland stream, impounding the element in a great reservoir. Below the dam, over which the stream glides in lace-like falls, the currents, coming up from a combination of rocks, break into shrill rapids. A Bhagavati temple overlooks this medley of rocks and waters. The surrounding places present virgin wood-land scenery. About a quarter of a

mile above the rapids are the goddess's sacred fish, which pilgrims to the temple seldom omit to feed. Aruvikkarai is an ideal holiday resort.

Attingal, half way between Quilon and Trivandrum, is interesting on account of the fact that the principality of which it was once the capital used to be governed by women rulers till 1730. It was a Rani of Attingal who in 1684 gave permission to the East India Company to establish a trading station at Anjengo. Again, another Rani of Attingal was the mother of Martanda Varma (1729-58), the warrior King who, by a series of brilliant conquests, enlarged the small kingdom which he had inherited to the dimensions that the State to-day occupies on the map. A treaty concluded between His Highness Martanda Varma Maharaja and the Attingal Rani laid down that the rulership of Travancore should go only to the princes born of the Ranis of Attingal. The Maharanis of the Travancore Royal Family are to this day called Attingal Tampurans.

Chittirapuram is an infant settlement, but a most picturesque one, containing the quarters and offices of those engaged in the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric works and named after His Highness the Maharaja in honour of his visit to the place on the first of March 1935. Three thousand and eight hundred feet above sea-level and commanding wonderful scenery all round, it bids fair speedily to become as important as Munnar and Devicolam, the two older hill towns on the Travancore High Ranges.

Devicolam (new) is the headquarters of the taluk of that name and is situated in a valley near the summit of the High Ranges. It is already an enchanting hill-station in Travancore, compares very favourably with Ooty and promises to achieve a wider reputation. When it is very hot in the plains, ideal weather prevails in Devicolam. There is a Travellers' Bungalow which visitors can occupy. The town has already the advantage of electricity. The old town lies ten miles to the south-east of Munnar and is connected with it by a motor-road, a journey along which reveals to the eye an endless vista of green carpet and scenery rarely

seen elsewhere. The place takes its name from a dreaming lake which lends variety to the scene. Ever green forests and still mountain slopes clothed with lush verdure succeed one another in the emerald panorama on either side. Devicolam was formerly the headquarters of the Cardamom Department, but such commercial activities have been shifted to Munnar, and the place remains a sanctuary for the lover of nature. Recently, the Hindu residents of the locality built a temple and dedicated it to Sasta, the mountain God.

Kalati, famous as the birth-place of Sri Sankaracharya, is on the north bank of the Periyar about 6 miles east of Alwaye. It lies on the Main Central Road five miles from Perumpavur and can be reached also from the Ankamali or Kalati Road station on the Shoranur-Ernakulam railway. The Sanketam premises, belonging to the Sringeri Mutt, Mysore, contain two temples, one dedicated to the great reformer and the other to Saradamba. These were constructed at the expense of the Sringeri Mutt and the *Prathishta* or installation took place in 1910, which attracted Hindu pilgrims from all parts of India. Here are a Sanskrit School conducted by the Mutt and a Satram maintained by the Travancore Government. A quiet retreat where the bustle of modern times has not entered yet; the place affords excellent river-bathing in the summer months. The site was acquired by the Travancore Government as an ancient monument and handed over to the Mutt.

Kottayam, the outlet for the products of the Peermade Hills, is a flourishing town. It was one of the capitals of the Tekkumkur Rajas and formed the scene of the earliest activities of the C. M. S. in Travancore over 126 years ago. An ancient Syrian Church known as Valiya Palli has two Crosses with inscriptions in Phlevi believed by some to be the handiwork of Apostle St. Thomas. These are considered treasures in the history of Christianity in the State. The smaller cross bears a much later date. The site of the Church is the free gift of the Tekkumkur Rajas made in the 16th Century. The ruins of an old fortress, Taliyil Kotta, its arsenal and trenches are visible. Three of the renowned

Ashtavaidyas of Malabar belong to Kottayam. Kumaranallur, a strong hold of the Nambutiries and the famous Ettumanur temple are within three and seven miles respectively. Kottayam is situated on the banks of the Minachil river, and is claimed to be the place where the first English school in the State was established. The town is supplied with electricity.

Kovalam, lies about 10 miles from Trivandrum with which it is connected by a continuous line of vivid beautiful landscape. It affords the finest sea-bathing of any place in India on account of its natural situation. A rocky headland jutting into the waves secures the bather complete safety even when the sea is rough. An up-to-date bathing ghat has been recently provided. There is also a nicely constructed building for changing dress after a bath. The sea-view from the headland is enthralling. "See Naples and die" may without exaggeration be applied to this delightful and perennially fresh little bay on the Trivandrum coast.

Padmanabhapuram was once the capital of the State and the residence of the Royal Family. It is about a mile to the north west of the Udayagiri Fort and a mile from Thuckalay. The old palaces are in an excellent state of preservation and not only present remarkable specimens of architecture but also contain mural paintings dating back to the 15th century, and in almost all their original freshness of delineation. They form a valuable treasure and a distinct contribution to the artistic heritage of India. The Palace is now preserved as an ancient monument and attracts numerous visitors. An Archaeological Musuem has been recently opened there. The Fort within which the Palace stands has an area of 156 acres. The Palace tower has a very old clock made by a local smith. Its workmanship, though primitive, is remarkable and it still keeps accurate time and is considered one of the oldest in India. The elaborate carvings in stone pillars and in wood on the ceiling of the Council Hall should not be missed.

Quilon, the State's second sea-port town, is celebrated in history for its trade in spices. In the palmy days of the spice trade, it seems to have been a city of palaces as is evidenced by

the Malayalam saying that, if you saw Quilon, you would need no home any more! The Malabar Era, otherwise known as the Kollam Era, takes its name from this town. The tradition is that St. Thomas himself built a Church here. It is also worthy of note that John D' Marignoli arrived on Palm Sunday 1348 at "a very noble city called Coilum where the world's pepper is produced". Ibn Batuta forced to land here in 1324 speaks of Quilon as "one of the finest cities in Malabar with magnificent markets and very wealthy merchants". It is today an industrial and commercial centre of increasing importance with its tile factories, cashewnut factories, spinning and weaving mill and engineering workshop. The mineral factories of Nindakara and Chavara are within about ten miles of the Town which stands on the Ashtamudi Lake, the Loch Lomond of Travancore. It has a reef of rocks for its beach on which cocoanut trees grow so near the water's edge that their shadows fall on the beating surf, a rare thing to meet within any part of the world. The port is an open road-stead situated off a bight in the coast-formed by the Tangacheri point, a small British possession with a lighthouse. The town is lit with electricity. It is an important Railway Station in the S. I. R. and is only 40 miles from Trivandrum, the Railway terminus.

Suchindram, three miles south of Nagercoil, on the way to Cape Comorin, is famous for its ancient and celebrated Siva temple of which the annual Car Festival in December attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over Travancore and the adjacent British Indian Districts. The temple contains admirable and highly valued specimens of stone architecture.

Udayagiri Fort is near Thuckalay, ten miles to the north east of Nagercoil. One of the ancient military stations in the State, the fort was built of granite blocks round an isolated hill by the Flemish Commander of the Travancore Forces, General Eustace D'Lannoy in the 18th century. The tomb of D'Lannoy can still be seen inside a partly ruined chapel within the fort. There is an excellent Travellers' Bungalow built on one corner of the fort

APPENDIX II

Rest Houses and P. W. D. Campsheds in the State.

The following are the revised rules passed by Government for the occupation of Rest Houses and P. W. D. Campsheds in the State.

Rules for the Occupation of Rest Houses.

1. The Bungalows are maintained by Government in the interests of the travelling public and Government Officers on circuit and are in the charge of the Travancore P. W. D. Complaints as to any negligence or inefficiency of the servants employed in these Bungalows should be addressed to the Executive Engineer in charge of the Division, but complaints of a more serious nature may be made to the Chief Engineer. Persons occupying Rest Houses are expected to exercise due consideration and care for the Bungalows and furniture and any defacing of the walls or wilful damage to or spoiling of the furniture will render the occupants liable to expulsion from the buildings, besides payment of damage.

2. Rest Houses are of two classes, according to the nature of the convenience provided. A first class Rest House is in the immediate charge of a butler who also caters to the travellers on payments made in advance. A tariff of charges for ordinary meals is posted in the Bungalow. The tariff is however subject to alteration or revision from time to time without previous notice. There is only a watcher in charge of a second class Rest House. He is not expected to cook, but will render such assistance as he can in this matter to travellers.

3. A list of Rest Houses of the two classes is attached.

The fees for occupation are as below :

Accommodation.	*First class Rest House.*	*Second class Rest House.*
(*a*) for each adult for a period of 6 hours or portion thereof in any one day ...	As. 8	As. 4
(*b*) for each adult for one day or any longer period than 6 hours in any one day ...	Re. 1	As. 8

3 A. The fees for occupation of Rest Houses provided with electric instalation are as below :--

	First class Rest House. Rs. As. P.	*Second class Rest House.* Rs. As. P.
(*a*) For each adult for periods of six hours in any one day or portion thereof ...	0 12 0	0 8 0
(*b*) For each adult for a whole day of 24 hours calculated from the hour of arrival or any period longer than six hours in any one day ...	1 8 0	1 0 0

NOTE :—1. Members of the same family occupying the same room shall pay only one fee, the word "family" means a man, his wife and children irrespective of the number or a party of 3 adult members of the same family and the world "room" means a suite of rooms including the dressing and bath rooms.

2. Only 75 per cent. of the above fees will be charged in the case of Government Officers drawing a salary of Rs. 150 and above and up to Rs. 300 and only 50 per cent. in the case of such officers drawing a salary of less than Rs. 150. Government Officers, wherever they occupy the Rest Houses should note their salary in the occupation register failing which they will have to pay the full fees as per rules.

3. Servants travelling by themselves independently of their masters shall not be permitted to occupy Rest Houses. But if they go in advance of their masters to the Rest Houses, or stay behind for packing and removing samans, they may occupy the out-houses without payment of fees.

4. When however the masters themselves do not for any reason occupy the bungalow in the course of the day or the night, as the case may be, after the servants begin to occupy the out houses, half the above rate of fees will have to be paid by such servants for every day of their occupation commencing from the time of their arrival with the samans.

5. When parties of persons make a brief halt at the Rest House where there is not accommodation for the rooms to be assigned—one room for every two persons—the rent would not be person-war but would be room-war at the rate of 2 persons per room for the number of rooms available in the Rest House, the term brief halt meaning not more than 3 days.

6. 'Day' means a day of 24 hours counted from the hour of arrival of a traveller.

3 B. Occupation fee for the new Rest House at Cape Comorin (the Cape Hotel) will be Rs. 2 per day per room for each traveller; but if a party of travellers occupy a single room, the principal member to pay Rs. 2 and every other member of the

party to pay Re. 1 not more than 3 to occupy one room, children in arms to be free.

4. Travellers in actual occupation of Rest Houses have the right to continue occupation in preference to all later arrivals or applicants for twenty four hours from the time of initial occupation provided it is not reserved in the meantime under the orders of Government. Occupation for a maximum of 15 days may however be allowed by the Executive Engineer in all Rest Houses except the new Rest House at Cape if no later applicants require accommodation.

5. Occupation for more than 15 days may be allowed with the permission of the Chief Engineer who may grant permission up to 30 days and occupations for periods over 30 days may be allowed with the sanction of Government if no later applicants require accommodation.

6. Accommodation in Rest Houses may be reserved for Government Officers and other travellers for a period of 3 days at a time on formal application to the Division Officer concerned. For reservations for periods in excess of 3 days the fee shall be double that of the ordinary fee. Unless intimation to the contrary is given before the commencement of the period for which reservation is sought for, Government Officers on whose request the accommodation was reserved, will be liable to pay the occupation fees due for the period of reservation whether or not they actually occupy the building. The full amount of the occupation fees for the period of reservation should be sent along with the application for reservation from the travellers other than Government Officers. In cases of extensions of reservations the full fee for the extended period should be paid in advance at the commencement of the period of extension. No refund of fees paid will be made except when the reservation applied for is not granted and when for any reason not due to the fault of the occupants they are not allowed occupation for the full period of reservation.

7. In case there is no campshed adjoining the Rest House, and if the Rest House has more than one suite of rooms, one such

suite of rooms may, with the sanction of the Executive Engineer in charge of the Division, be reserved for officers on tour without limit of time.

NOTE:—Rules 4 to 7 above will be subject to the condition that the travellers will have to vacate the bungalows even during the periods allowed if required to do so by the Executive Engineer.

8. Preparation of meals in advance of definite requisition is left to the discretion of the Butler. But he is expected to provide all possible and reasonable convenience to the travellers.

9. The first applicant is entitled to choice of rooms. He may not 'however' appropriate to himself more than one suite consisting of one bed room, one dressing and one bath room. Should furniture be taken from an unoccupied room it must immediately be replaced when required by other travellers.

10. When accommodation is required by a family, the subordinate in charge will allocate the available accommodation according to the demand.

11. Every occupier of a Rest House on entry is required to write his full name and address in a register kept for the purpose in the bungalow. He should also sign in the occupation book on payment of bungalow fees. He is expected to obtain from the butler in charge a cash receipt for all payments for catering.

12. A list of crockery and furniture supplied to the Bungalows showing the value of each article is maintained in the Bungalow. The full value of articles damaged or broken by the traveller or his servants shall be recovered from him before he leaves the Bungalow. The amount so paid should be entered in the remarks column of the occupation book.

13. Travellers halting in Rest Houses should pay the fees at the end of every third day of their occupation if the occupation extends over 3 days.

14. No articles shall be removed from the Bungalow except under the orders of the Chief Engineer, nor shall the Bungalow be occupied by any other than bonafide travellers.

15. A list showing the names and designation of the servants is posted in the Bungalow for the information of travellers.

16. The subordinate in charge is ordered on pain of punishment to report any deviation from these rules on the part of the travellers who will also be responsible for the acts of their servants.

17. Vehicles or animals or carts and the animals employed in their draught used as the personal conveyances of travellers occupying Rest Houses will be accommodated free to the extent of one vehicle or animal or cart and one pair of animals when the traveller is in occupation. If the owner of the vehicle or animal or cart is not in occupation the charge per vehicle, or animal or cart will be half the fee which the owner would have to pay had he been in occupation. Any traveller occupying the Rest House with baggage of tents, commercial vehicles for sale, vehicles loaded with articles intended for sale or advertisement shall in addition to the fee for the occupation of the Rest House pay for each such vehicle or tent, an amount equivalent to what he would have to pay for his occupation of the Rest-House subject to the limitation that it should not exceed Re. 1 per day.

Rules for the occupation of P. W. D. Campsheds.

1. The P. W. D. campsheds in the State are primarily intended for the use of Government officers travelling on duty and the officers of the P. W. D. in whose direct charge the buildings are shall have at all times preferential claim for their occupation. Government officers may, therefore, occupy these buildings without limit of time and have them, if need be, reserved in advance. Application for reservation should be made in advance to the P. W. D. Division Officer concerned. Unless intimation to the contrary is given before the commencement of the period for which reservation is sought for, the officers on whose request accommodation was reserved will be liable to pay the occupation fees due for the period of reservation, whether or not they actually occupy the building.

2. Subject to the provision in rule (1) other travellers also may occupy campsheds and have them reserved for a period of 3 days at a time on formal application to the P. W. D. Division Officer concerned. For reservations for periods in excess of 3 days, the fee shall be double that of the ordinary fee. The full amount of occupation fees for the period of reservation should be sent along with the application for reservation, and in cases of extensions of reservations, the full fee for the extended period should be paid in advance at the commencement of the period of extension. No refund of fees paid will be made except when the reservation applied for is not granted and when for any reason not due to the fault of the occupants, they are not allowed occupation for the full period of reservation.

3. Fees for occupation.

(i) *P. W. D. Campsheds other than electrified campsheds.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
(*a*) For each adult for a period of six hours or portion thereof in any one day ...	0	4	0
(*b*) For each adult for one day or any longer period than six hours in any one day ...	0	8	0

(ii) *Electrified P. W. D. Campsheds.*

(*a*) For each adult for a period of 6 hours or portion thereof in any one day. ...	0	8	0
(*b*) For each adult for one day or any longer period than 6 hours in any one day ...	1	0	0

NOTE:—(i) Members of the same family occupying the same room shall pay only one fee, the word 'family' means a man, his wife and children irrespective of the number or a party of 3 adult members of the same family and the word 'room' means a suite of rooms including dressing and bath rooms.

(ii) Only 75 per cent of the above fees will be charged in the case of Government Officers drawing a salary of Rs. 150 and above up to Rs. 300 and 50 per cent only in the case of officers drawing a salary of less than Rs. 150. Government Officers, whenever they occupy a P. W. D. campshed should note their salary in the occupation register failing which they will have to pay the full occupation fees as per rules.

(iii) Travellers other than Government officers shall occupy campsheds within the premises of Travellers Bungalows only if the adjoining Travellers Bungalow is fully occupied. The fee for such travellers shall be at the T. B. rates.

(iv) Servants travelling by themselves independently of their masters shall not be permitted to occupy P. W D. camp-sheds. But if they go in advance of their masters to the campsheds or stay behind for packing and removing samans, they may occupy the out-houses without payment of fees.

(v) When however the masters themselves do not for any reason occupy the bungalow in the course of the day or the night, as the case may be, after the servants begin to occupy the out houses, half the above rate of fees will have to be paid by such servants for every day of their occupation commencing from the time of their arrival with the samans.

(vi) When parties of persons make a brief halt at the campshed where there is not accommodation for the rooms to be assigned—one room for every two persons—the rent would not be person-war but would be room—war at the rate of 2 persons per room for the number of rooms available in the campshed the term 'brief halt' meaning not more than 3 days,

(vii) 'Day' means a day of 24 hours counted from the hour of arrival of a traveller.

(viii) The list of campsheds is given below.

4. The general rules 4, 5, 7 and note and 9 to 17 of the rules for the occupation of Rest Houses shall be applicable in the case of campsheds as well.

List of Rest Houses.

1. Adur.
2. Alleppey (1st class).
3. Attingal.
4. Balamore (23 3/4 miles Nagercoil-Balamore road).
5. Bodimettu (22nd mile Munnar-Bodimettu road).
*6. The Cape Hotel.
7. Cape Comorin (1st class).
8. Colachel.
*9. Devicolam (1st class).
10. Kanjirapalli (23rd mile Kottayam-Kumili road).
11. Karumadi (78th mile Trivandrum-Shoranur canal).
*12. Kayankulam.
†*13. Kottayam (1st class).
14. Kottarakara.
15. Kulathupuzha (39 1/2 mile Trivandrum-Shencotta road.
16. Kulasekaram (8th mile Marthandom-Pechipara road).
17. Kuzhithura.
*18. Munnar (1st class).
*19. Munnar (2nd class).
*20. Nagercoil (1st class).
21. Neyyattinkara.
22. Oodayagiri (34th mile Main Southern road).
23. Pathanapuram (28th mile Kayankulam-Punalur road).
24. Peermade (1st class).
25. Punalur (28 1/3 mile Quilon-Shencotta road).
†26. Quilon (1st class).

* Rest Houses fitted with Electric fittings.

† Rest Houses fitted with Telephone connections.

27. Seethapal (5th mile from Aramboly).
28. Shencottah.
29. Sherthalai.
30. Thadikarankonam (11 1/8 mile Nagercoil-Balamore road).
31. Thekkadi (70th mile Kottayam-Kumili road).
†*32. Trivandrum (1st class).
33. Vaikom.

List of P. W. D. Campsheds.

*1. Alwaye.
2. Ankamali (7th mile Alwaye-Ankamali road).
3. Aramboli.
4. Ariyankavu (49 3/4 mile Quilon-Shencotta road).
5. Ayikudi (8th mile Shencottah—Samboorvadakara road).
6. Ayoor (35th mile Main Central road).
7. Chengannur (75 1/8th mile Main Central road).
8. Chinnar (37th mile Northern Outlet road).
9. Elampallore (8th mile Quilon-Shencottah road).
10. Haripad (33rd mile Quilon-Alleppey road).
11. Kallar (Kottayam Division 33rd mile Cardamom Hill bridle path).
12. Karingal (6 miles from Monday Market).
13. Karunagapalli (15 1/2 miles Quilon-Alleppey road).
14. Koothattukulam (119 3/8 mile Main Central road).
15. Kothamangalam (7 1/2 miles from Muvattupuzha).
‡†*16. Kottayam.
17. Kovilam (8th mile Trivandrum-Kovilam road).
18. Kozhencherry (10th mile Thiruvella-Kozhencherry road).
19. Kunnambhagom (7 miles from Kanjirapalli).
‡20. Kuzhithurai.
21. Madathura (31 1/8 miles Trivandrum-Shencotta road).
*22. Mavelikara.
23. Merchiston (34th mile Kallar-Ponmudi road).

‡ P. W. D. Campsheds within the premises of Rest Houses.

24. Mulagumood (3 miles from Thuckalai on the 1st mile Mulagumood-Colachal road).
25. Muvattupuzha.
26. Myladi (7 miles from Cape Comorin).
*27. Nagercoil.
28. Nedumangad (113/4 miles Trivandrum-Shencottah road)
29. Neriamangalam (35th mile Alwaye-Munnar road).
30. Nilamel (10th mile Parippally-Madathura road from 29th mile M. C. road).
31. Oodayagiri (34th mile Main Southern road).
32. Pachipara at the head of the Dam.
33. Pallickal (5th mile Kayenkulam-Punalur road).
34. Pallode (21st mile Trivandrum-Shencottah road).
35. Pandalam (67th mile Main Central road).
36. Parassala (19th mile Main Southern road).
37. Paruthipalli (14th mile Pappanamcode-Kottur road).
38. Pathanamthitta.
39. Perumbavur (142 5/8 mile Main Central road).
40. Perumpatty (near 8/8 of Poovanakadavu-Cherukolpuzha road).
41. Puthencruz (12th mile Kothamangalam-Perumbankuthu road).
42. Puthukulam (3 1/2 miles Nainarthope road branching right from 8 1/4 mile Balamore road).
43. Puvar (6 1/8 mile Neyyattinkara-Puvar road).
44. Ranni (24th mile Pathanapuram-Ranni road).
45. Sasthancottah (6th mile Karunagapalli-Sasthancottah road).
46. Thadikaranconam (11th mile Nagercoil-Balamore road).
47. Thalliar (15th mile Northern-Outlet road).
*48. Thiruvella.
49. Vaikom.
50. Vettoor (Warkala).
51. Vennikulam (8th mile from Thiruvella).
52. Vidura (25th mile Trivandrum-Ponmudi road).

* P. W. D. Campsheds fitted with Electric fittings.

Rules for the occupation of the Sachivothama Shashtiabdapoorthi Memorial Satrom, Trivandrum.

The Sachivothama Shashtiabdhapoorthi Memorial Satrom was built by the people of Travancore as a memorial of the Sashtiabdapurthi of Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LLD. the Dewan of Travancore. At the request of the Memorial Commıttee it is maintained by Government in the interests of the travelling public is open only to *Bonafide* travellers and is under the control of the Trivandrum Corporation. The building is in the immediate charge of a Caretaker who will work under the orders of the Commissioner of the Corporation.

2. Applications for reservation of rooms in the Satrom may be made by the travelling public in advance to the Caretaker, Sachivothama Memorial Satrom, Trivandrum. The full amount of the occupation fees for the period of occupation should be sent along with the application for reservation. No refund thereof will be made except when the reservation applied for is not granted. Unless intimation to the contrary is given before the commencement of the period for which reservation is sought for, persons on whose request accommodation was reserved will be liable to pay the occupation fees due for the period of reservation whether or not they actually occupy the building.

3. The fees for the occupation of the Satrom will be as follows and the rates are liable to revision after six months :

(6) six annas per day for a single room in the ground floor ;
(10) ten annas per day for a double room in the ground flooor; &
(1) Re one per day for each of the rooms in the first floor.

NOTE.— (1) Members of the same family occupying the same room need pay only one fee. The word 'family' will comprise a man, his wife and children irrespective of number or a party of adult members of the same family and the word 'room' means room allotted and the reasonable use of bath rooms and kitchen.

(2) 'Day' means a day of twenty four hours counted from the hour of arrival of the occupant.

(3) Fees for one full day will have to be paid if the period of occupation is more than six hours a day. If the period of occupation is six hours or less half the above rates will have to be paid.

(4) Every occupant on entry into the building is required to write his full name and address in the register kept for the purpose. He must also enter in the register the occupation fee paid by him and also should sign the register when the payment is made. He is expected to obtain from the Caretaker cash receipts for all payments made.

N. B. Occupants other than Government servants should pay the occupation fees in advance.

(5) The first applicant is entitled to the choice of rooms.

(6) A list of articles and furniture in each room showing the value of each is put up in each room. The full value of the articles damaged or broken by the occupant or his servants shall be made good from him before he leaves the building.

(7) No articles shall be removed from one room to another except under the special orders of the Commissioner or an officer authorised by him.

(8) Occupation of the Satrom by a person will ordinarily be only for three days. If a longer period of stay is required permission of the Commissioner of the Corporation or any officer authorised by him is necessary. Such permission may be granted in the absence of applications from fresh arrivals. For any period in excess of fifteen days the sanction of Government is required.

(9) Persons occupying the Satrom are expected to exercise due consideration and care for the building and furniture and any defacing of the wall or wilful damage to or spoiling of the furniture will render the occupants liable for expulsion from the building besides payment of damage.

(10) Travellers in actual occupation of the Satrom have the right to continue occupation in preference to all later arrivals or

applicants for twenty four hours from the time of initial occupation provided it is not otherwise reserved in the meantime.

(11) Servants travelling by themselves independently of their masters shall not be permitted to occupy the Satrom. But if they go in advance of their masters or stay behind for packing and removing samans they may occupy the rooms for a short time without payment of fees.

(12) A list showing the names and designation of the employees of the Satrom is put up in the office room of the Satrom. Complaints as to any negligence or inefficiency of the servants employed in the Satrom should be addressed to Commissioner of the Corporation of Trivandrum.

(13) There is a watcher attached to the Satrom who will render such assistance as he can to the travellers.

(14) The Satrom is not open to permanent residents in Trivandrum and those living within five miles of the city.

(15) Travellers bringing their own conveyances are permitted to park them in the premises of the Satrom but the Care-taker and the other employees cannot be expected to take any responsibility for their safe custody during day or night.

(16) No additional charges will be levied for water and electric lights.

(17) Occupants of the Satrom are expected to take care of their own belongings.

(18) These rules shall take effect from the 1st Vrischigam, 1116.

The Calendar.

The official year in Travancore is reckoned according to the Malabar Era or the Kollam Era said to date from the rebuilding of Kollam or Quilon 1116 years ago. The year begins about the middle of August. The twelve months are named after the Zodiacal signs, the longest month having 32 days and the shortest 29 days. There is no leap year as in the Gregorian Calendar.

Currency.

Travancore has its own coinage of the silver fanam (2·25 annas,) the copper chuckram (6·74 pies) and the cash (0·42 pie). It has been issuing also its own silver coin formerly called half-rupee but now called the "Chitra" (14 chuckrams) and a coin formerly called quarter-rupee (7 chuckrams). The British Indian silver and nickel coins and currency notes are also in free circulation. The "Chitra" coins and the British Indian half-rupee are legal tender for an unlimited amount.

Anchal.

The state has its own postal service, known as the Anchal, and issues its own stamps. Its Anchal offices also transact savings bank business and issue hundies or money orders. The neighbouring State of Cochin too has its own system of postal service and both the services are run on a reciprocal basis.

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Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E., LL. D. the Dewan of Travancore'

BY

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